





Gc  
974.302  
B21p  
1148185

M. L.

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

✓

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01092 5169

GENEALOGY  
974.302  
B21P















ANNIE M. POLLARD

THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN  
of  
BALTIMORE, VERMONT

by

ANNIE M. POLLARD

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Montpelier, Vermont

*Copyright 1954*  
DOROTHY POLLARD BALLOU



1148185

This Book is Published as  
A Memorial to  
Our Mother  
Annie M. Pollard  
And it is Dedicated to  
the Early Families  
of Baltimore  
Whose Pioneering Spirit and Industry  
Were an Inspiration for her Book

---

Dorothy Pollard Ballou  
Mary Pollard Rich



## FOREWORD

Although Annie Maydora Olney, oldest child of Fred and Edith Olney, was born in Chester, Vermont, and early attended public school there, much of her childhood was spent in Baltimore. Even as a child, she was interested in the town's early progress. She was fascinated by the cellar holes that marked the sites of early homes, abandoned because of fire or when a better habitation had been provided. She often listened as her father told of the early settlers on these farms.

The Baltimore years were interrupted when, after completing her schooling in the Old Stone Schoolhouse, Annie Olney returned to Chester to attend High School. After graduation, she taught for a few years in the public schools of Ludlow, Post Mills and White River Junction.

In 1902 she became the bride of Walter E. Pollard of Ludlow and they moved to Baltimore to live on what was then known as the William Davis farm.

With the energy of youth and with a natural enthusiasm for her tasks, Mrs. Pollard began early to serve her small community in various capacities. For many years she was School Director. Often she taught in the Baltimore school, where many Baltimore families remember her as teacher.

When Walter Pollard was elected Town Clerk, an office he was to hold for thirty-six years, Annie Pollard was named Assistant Town Clerk. During these years, affairs of town government became increasingly more difficult and highly organized. So it was that in 1933, when Mrs. Pollard was elected to represent the town of Baltimore in the House of Representatives at Montpelier, she was well-trained for the duties and responsibilities of her position.

During the six successive terms that she served as representative, Mrs. Pollard became recognized as an authority on rural education and the affairs of small-town government.

In 1910, when the town records were entrusted to the new Assistant Town Clerk, they could not have been placed in more appreciative hands. Mrs. Pollard studied the old volumes eagerly and carefully and in her last years, when there was leisure time for it, *The History of Baltimore* resulted.

In assembling information for this book, the author was indebted to many people who generously gave information to supplement her own. The History is published here as it was written by Mrs. Pollard. No attempt has been made to change the contents or to supplement the material which she prepared. If errors are discovered we hope that the spirit in which the work was prepared will be remembered.

In the spring of 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Pollard left the Baltimore farm and moved to their house in North Springfield. Mrs. Pollard died suddenly September 22 of that same year. Except for a few months she had spent her entire married life in Baltimore.





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. Baltimore in its First Year	3
II. The Story of the Schools	8
III. The Story of the Poor	21
IV. The Story of the Highways	27
V. The "Doin's" at Town Meeting	34
VI. Baltimore Destined to Remain Small	42
VII. The Story of Baltimore People	
Ella Elizabeth Graves	44
David Campbell	48
The Chaplin Family	49
Levi Davis Family	55
William Davis Family	57
George Davis Family	62
Francis Burnam	66
Manasseh Boynton	67
Amasa Gregory	69
Amos Bemis Family	76
Reuben Bemis Family	81
The Glynn Place	84
Edmund Batchelder Family	86
Parkman Davis Family	91
John Woodbury Family	103
The Houghton Family	108
The Preston Families	112
Early History of West District	121
Benjamin Litch	123
Luke Harris	126
Leland Family	132
Joseph Willard Leland	142
Jonathan Woodbury Family	143
Boynton Family	150
Joseph Atherton Family	154
The Hastings Farm	164
Benjamin Page	166
Amos Page Family	171
Waldo Cheney Farm	173
Graves Family	176
Martin Genealogy	181
The Woodwards	192
Noah Piper Family	194
John Piper Family	198
Rodney Piper Family	201
Eleanor Piper	203
Amos Piper Family	204
Perry Bingham Piper Family	205
Levi Piper Family	205
John Willard Piper Family	207
Carter Piper Family	207









### THE WALTER POLLARD PLACE

Built by William and Phebe Davis, 1827

The author came here as a bride and this was her home until a few months before her death.



### HAWKS MOUNTAIN

“After a few years it became apparent that Hawks Mountain formed a barrier between the southeastern part of Cavendish and the rest of the town . . . . .”



ELLA GRAVES

“ . . . . The residue  
was left to Springfield  
Hospital to be used for  
the sick people of Balti-  
more.”



THE JEHIAL CONVERSE PLACE

*Built by Luther Graves before 1838*

“Waldo Cheney sold the farm to Luther Graves in 1815 and it was owned by members of the Graves family for eighty-seven years.”





### OLD STONE SCHOOLHOUSE

“The desks were made of rock maple planks and the backs were perpendicular to the seats. In those days the pupils’ backs had to be adjustable rather than the desks.”

BACK ROW: Annie Olney, Nettie Carrigan, Maggie Carrigan, Abbie Fairbanks, Lulu Smith, Eddie Coffin.

MIDDLE ROW: Guy W. Preston, Esther A. Chapman, Sadie Smith, Percival Smith *or* Percy E. Bridges, Ettie L. Bryant, Ernest A. Preston.

FRONT ROW: Lottie Bryant, Edith Preston, Sadie Bridges.



### THE NEW SCHOOLHOUSE

“The fall term of school, 1894, was kept in the present building. Here ends the story of the Old Stone Schoolhouse.”





### SUNDGREN PLACE

“ . . . It seems reasonable to conclude that Amasa Gregory built the present house before 1828.”



### THE LELAND HOMESTEAD

1843

“Charles Leland, when an old man, liked to relate how he and his brother Oscar used to vie with each other to see who could bring in the biggest stone on his wheel barrow from the quarry back of the present buildings.”





THE DEAN PLACE  
(The Martin Homestead)

The Deans were living here during the First World War. Then they moved to Perkinsville. The farm was bought by Davidsons from New York and the old house was torn down.



THE DESMOND PLACE

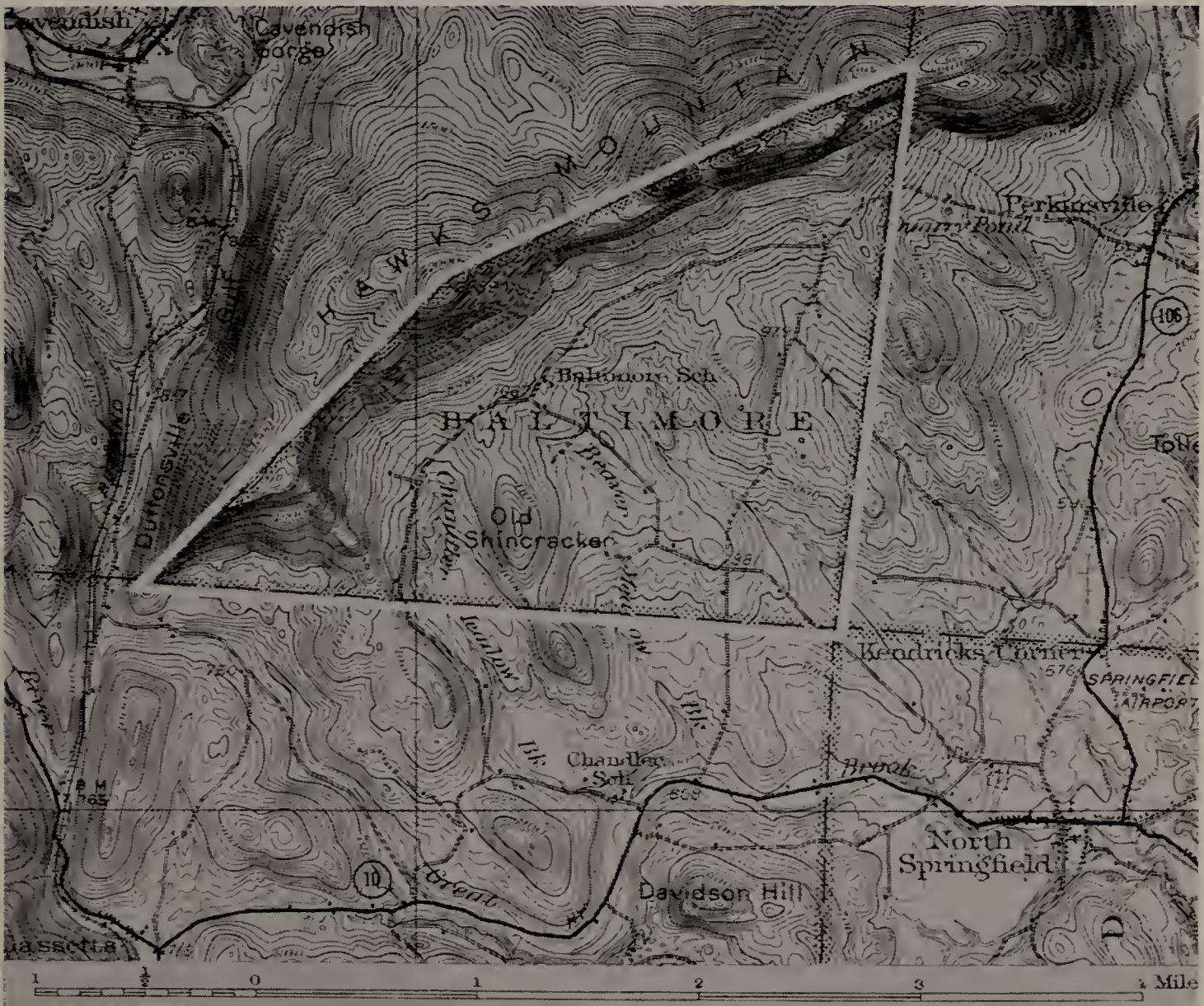
“In 1778 Noah Piper obtained land . . . . in Baltimore. It is believed that the house now standing was the one built and occupied by Noah, and it bears the distinction of being the oldest house in town.”





HENRY HAMMOND PLACE

“ . . . . . David Chaplin, Jr. built set number four (in picture) where the buildings are now located. That house burned in 1904 and was rebuilt the following spring.”



MAP OF BALTIMORE VERMONT, SHOWING LOCATION IN RELATION TO THE VILLAGES OF CAVENDISH, PERKINSVILLE, NORTH SPRINGFIELD AND GASSETT'S.





THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN  
of  
BALTIMORE, VERMONT

*Close to the side of Hawks Mountain  
Where the sun's rays brightly fall,  
Nestles a town  
Of some renown  
Because of its area small.  
A three-cornered clipping from Eden,  
A haunt for the birds and the flowers,  
No place is more blest  
In all East and West  
Than this land that we love to call ours.*

A. M. P.



## I. BALTIMORE IN ITS FIRST YEAR

Baltimore was originally a part of Cavendish; so to know the early history of Baltimore we have to refer to the early history of Cavendish.

Benning Wentworth, then Governor of New Hampshire, on behalf of King George the Third of England conveyed and granted to Amas Kimball and his associates all the land in what is now Cavendish and Baltimore, a tract about seven miles square, on Oct. 12, 1761.

The first town to receive its charter in Windsor County was Chester, then called Flamstead, in 1754. The first proprietors of Chester did not live up to conditions of the grant of 1754; so the second one was made in 1761. Also to seventeen other towns, including Cavendish.

A charter had to be obtained from New Hampshire and later from New York because of land difficulties. New York did not grant a charter until 1772. The original New York charter is in Cavendish town clerk's office. It has a seal about four inches in diameter attached to it made of bee's wax. The seal has figures of people in motion on one side and the seal of England on the other. It was written with a quill on a parchment made of sheep's skin.

There were 66 grantees, each of whom was to have 312 acres, and at least seven received grants on the Baltimore side of the mountain. Grantees had right of possession of the land but did not necessarily live on it and oftentimes sold their rights. The cheap good lands of Massachusetts were fast becoming occupied. Ambitious young men with a few hundred dollars of hard-earned savings could come to the Grants and buy a tract large enough for a farm when cleared, often about one hundred acres.

According to the records only one of the original grantees may have lived in Baltimore. Most of the grantees lived in Lunenburg, Mass. They held their first meeting in that town on Nov. 19, 1761. They voted a twenty-dollar bonus to the first five men actually to settle on the grant. Again in 1767 they voted a bonus to the first six settlers to clear and fence the land. This fact explains why so many of the first men actually to live in Baltimore came from Lunenburg, Mass., or neighboring towns.

Governor Wentworth had 500 acres in every township. In Cavendish his farm was in the southeast corner, now part of Baltimore including Hammond's, Pollard's, Sundgren's, Foster's, the farm once owned by Glynn, and out the old road to Erwin Converse place, also the Dan Davis land that lies in Baltimore.

The Proprietors were especially instructed that *All white or other pine trees within said town fit for masting out Royal Navy to be carefully preserved for the purpose and none to be cut or felled without our special license for so doing first had and obtained.* Also they were to pay an annual rent for 10 yr. of *one ear of Indian corn per year if*



*lawfully demanded*, the first payment to be due Dec. 25, 1762; surely not a very excessive rent but still enough to prevent gaining a clear title.

After the expiration of the ten years, the rent was to be one shilling per annum, proclamation money, *for every 100 acres settled, owned or possessed, and so in proportion for a greater or lesser tract* to be paid at the Committee Chamber in Portsmouth, N. H.

After a few years it became apparent that the Hawks Mountain formed a barrier between the southeastern part of Cavendish and the rest of the town, cutting off about 3000 acres.

It might be well to explain at this time how this mountain received its name. The Crown Point road was built through the town of Cavendish about 1756. General Hawks was the British officer who had charge of this section, and Hawks Mountain was named from him as he and a group of men encamped on the mountain for a night.

We quote from a letter from Prof. Ernest W. Butterfield relative to this incident. “Maj. Hawks and other Indian fighters passed through Baltimore and over the mountain to avoid the swollen river, but for the stop of a single night it would not be necessary to build a camp. Hawks was out as others to scout for Indians, that is, to watch for early morning smokes from their camp fires. I think he had his camp by the great spring from which Encampment Brook starts. This is almost on the Baltimore-Weathersfield line and back of it are the cliffs which would hide the smoke from his own fires. Then his scouts watched from the mountain top above this, which is in Baltimore. I have examined this spring and followed the old road to the saddle at the top of the mountain.”

In 1790 a town meeting was held to see if the town would set off that part of Cavendish lying on the south side of the Hawks Mountain, so-called, with the inhabitants in it into a separate town. And also to see if the town would unite with the inhabitants of the south side of the mountain in petitioning the general assembly that that part of Cavendish lying on the south side of the mountain be incorporated into a separate town.

The records of a meeting held Sept. 6, 1791, show that they voted to set off that part of Cavendish lying on the south side of Hawks Mt. into a separate town with all the privileges that other towns in this state enjoy except in choosing representatives.

The act of the legislature which made Baltimore into a town by itself reads as follows: An Act dividing the Town of Cavendish in the County of Windsor into Two Separate Towns in Oct. 19, 1793.

*First: It is hereby enacted by the general assembly of the state of Vermont that that part of the town of Cavendish comprehended within the following lines, beginning at the north east corner of Chester from thence running westerly on the north line of said Chester three miles, thence turning and running northerly a direct course to the southerly end of Hawks Mountain so called till such line arrive at the eminence of said mountain—thence along the eminence or highest part of said*



*mountain lengthwise thereof till it arrives at the westerly line of Weathersfield, thence southerly on the said line of Weathersfield till it arrives at the place of beginning and the same is hereby formed and incorporated into a town by the name of Baltimore, and the inhabitants of said town shall have and enjoy all privileges and immunities that the inhabitants of other towns within this state exercise and enjoy excepting the privilege of electing a representative to the general assembly or state convention.*

*Second: It is hereby further enacted that the freemen's meeting of said town of Cavendish and Baltimore shall be holden at the usual place for holding town meetings in the town of Cavendish and such meetings shall be warned by the first Constable of Cavendish by posting a warning in three of the most public places in each of said towns and the freemen of said town, when met, shall jointly choose one representative to represent them in the general assembly or state convention."* This was an illegal arrangement as the constitution of the state of Vermont declared then as now that each and every town should have a representative.

The next thing for the town to do was organize. An official from out of town had to warn the first town meeting as no one in what is now Baltimore was qualified at that time to do so. The warning reads as follows:

*State of Vermont, Windsor County, Being requested by more than seven of the freeholders, [which meant men who owned property of the town of Baltimore] to warn a town meeting. Within said town . . . said this is therefor by the authority of the State of Vermont to request all the free holders and other inhabitants qualified by law to vote in town meeting in said town of Baltimore to meet at the dwelling place of Waldo Cheney in said Baltimore on the twelfth day of March next at ten o'clock before noon to vote on the following articles:*

*1stly. To choose a moderator to govern town meeting.*

*2ndly. To choose town clerk, selectmen, town treasurer, constable, listers, collector of rates and all other officers for said town for the year ensuing as the law directs.*

*3rdly. To see if the town will divide into school districts and choose persons in each district as school committee or agent.*

*4thly. To see if the town will raise any sum or sums of money for the purpose of procuring books for the use of said town and for any other purpose necessary for the said town.*

*5thly. To see what sum or sums of money the town will raise for the use of highways.*

*6thly. To see if the town will appoint any place for and provide a sign post for said town.*

*7thly. To do any other business thought necessary to be done when met.*

*Dated at Weathersfield the 20th day of Feb. Anno Domini 1794  
Nathaniel Stoughton, Justice of the peace.*

The following is the record of the first town meeting held in Baltimore as made by Joseph Atherton the first town clerk.

*The twelfth day of March 1794 met according to warning.*

*1stly. Chose Isaac Chamberlin Moderator.*

*2ndly. Voted Joseph Atherton town clerk.*

*3rdly. Waldo Cheney, Jonathan Woodbury, Joseph Atherton selectmen.*

*6thly. Jonathan Woodbury town treasurer.*

*7thly. Samuel Davis constable.*

*8thly. Jonathan Burnam, 9thly. Francis Burnam, 10thly. Joseph Atherton listers.*

*11thly. Jonathan Woodbury highway surveyor, 12thly, Francis Burnam, highway surveyor.*

*13thly. Samuel Davis collector, 14thly. Jonathan Woodbury sealer of weights and measures.*

*15thly. Isaac Chamberlin grand jury man, 16thly. town voted to divide into districts. 17thly. Noah Piper, 18thly. Amos Bemis and*

*19thly. Syrell Hutchins committee to divide the town into districts.*

*20thly. Voted to raise four dollars to purchase books for the use of the town.*

*21stly. Voted to raise twenty pounds (or one hundred dollars) for the use of highways in this town.*

*22ndly. Voted that Noah Piper's house door should be the sign post for the present.*

*23rdly. Voted that the committee to make their reports to the town the second Monday of May next.*

*24thly. Voted that the selectmen should lay out roads and lay before the town the second Monday of May next.*

*25thly. Voted that this meeting should stand adjourned to the second Monday of May next to the house of Waldo Cheney at one o'clock afternoon.*

All the above named officers all qualified by taking the oath as the law before Esquire Stoughton.

*May the twelfth met according to adjournment.*

*26thly. Voted to raise eleven pounds or about \$55.00 for the use of schools this year.*

*27thly. Voted that this meeting should stand adjourned to the first Monday of June next then to be holden at this place at one o'clock afternoon. Then the records further reveal that the meeting was held according to adjournment.*

*28thly. Voted that there should be a road from Weathersfield line to Mr. Isaac Hildreth's and to Mr. Bemis' as was laid out. This road crossed Weathersfield line near Dan Davis' house and extended to Volney Foster's place also to George Cook's. A. M. P.*

*29thly. Voted that there should be a road from Noah Piper's to the town line near Samuel Martin's as was laid out. This road extended*



from the place where Oel Converse now lives to the Weathersfield line near the quarry house.

*30thly. Voted that there should be a road from Mr. Bryant's field to the other road that leads from Noah Piper's to the town line near Samuel Martin's as was laid out.* Mr. Bryant's field was directly back of where Arthur Basso now lives so the road extended from near the base of the mountain and connected with the present road near Mr. Shepard's sugar house.

*31stly. Voted that Waldo Cheney should be a committee man to sit with Amos Bemis and Noah Piper to divide this town into school districts.* The committee made their report to the town that the South District should be Isaac Chamberlin or Pollard's place, Francis Burnam on old road, Ezra Redfield on Hammond place, Levi Davis whose farm consisted of the big Pollard pasture and Dan Davis' Baltimore land, Samuel Davis on the Sundgren farm, and Isaac Hildreth on Volney Foster's place. These families all lived on the "Governor's farm so called," but after the Revolutionary War Gov. Wentworth lost all the land he had reserved for himself. The families of Reuben Bemis on the George Cook place and of Amos Bemis who lived on the hill beyond his brother Reuben were also included in the South District. All the other families in town constituted the North District. As yet in 1794 there was no road connecting the southeastern corner of the town with the road under the mountain, hence the unequal division of families.

*32ndly. Voted to lay out a road from Noah Piper's to the south part of the town.*

This completed what is now called the old road. There was no road connecting the Foster Place with the road under the mountain and no road as yet laid out from the Litch Lot to the Chester line.

These three meetings ended the town's business for the first year with \$55 voted for the two schools, \$100 for roads and \$4 to purchase books.



## II. THE STORY OF THE SCHOOLS

In the warrant for the first town meeting to be held March 1794 in what is now Baltimore we read the following:

*3dly. To see if the Town will divide into School Destrects and choose persons in each Destrect as School Committee or Agents. In the record of that meeting we read 16thly. Town voted to divide into destrects.*

In an adjourned meeting of that same year the town "voted Eleven pounds L. M. for the use of schools this year." At the second adjourned meeting of that first year the committee made their report to the town that the North District should be Ahimaaz Sherwin, Col. Joshua Martin, Waldo Cheney, Noah Piper, Jonathan Burnam, Joseph Atherton, Joseph Morse, Jonathan Woodbury, Peter Robinson, Ebenezer Allen, Moses Bates. South District should be Col. Isaac Chamberlin, Francis Burnam, Levi Davis, Ezra Redfield, Amos Bemis, Samuel Davis, Isaac Hildreth, Reuben Bemis.

It will be seen that this division included in the first-named division all the families living near the mountain as well as those living on the east side. The other district was much smaller. But in the very beginning there were no connecting roads between the two sections which may account for this unequal division of families.

In 1795 they chose three men in each district for school committee. In 1796 a special town meeting was called for Mon. the first day of August to act on the following articles:

*2ly. To see if the Town will agree to Unite in one School and to Apint a place for the Senter and to make Som preperation for Building a School house this faull or to act anything that the Town May Think Proper with respect to Schools.*

The report of that meeting states that they voted to "Come all into one School District," and a committee was appointed to find a center. It was voted that this committee should "go on and find a center and if that will do to Bild a house to set down a stake and if that wont do to find the Next Niest Spot".

At the next meeting held Aug. 29 they voted to accept the committee's report as a center, and they chose a committee to agree with Mr. Houghton on what is now the Shepard place, for a piece of land containing two acres. It was then voted to take security of Mr. Houghton and lay out the land and divide it into three shares for chopping and "12ly Voted that the Committee see that the land be all chopt by the 15th of October next." This most peaceable and profitable meeting was then adjourned until the first Monday of October next at two o'clock afternoon. At this meeting it appeared the land had not been measured nor security taken of Mr. Houghton, and it was voted that this should be done by the tenth day of Oct. Adjourned until Tuesday of October 11th.

They met according to adjournment and "21ly voted to Divide into two school Destricts North and South," and also voted to pay



Joseph Atherton sixteen shillings for services in finding a center of the town. Joshua Martin received seven shillings and six pence for like services.

This question of whether to have one or two schools was a matter for controversy during forty-two years. In 1797 the warning called "to see if the town will alter or Divide into school destricts for the Better Acomedations of sd. Town." They voted to divide into two districts and appointed a committee to draw the lines between the two districts. The South District remained practically the same, and North District was further enlarged by the Putnamland, Luke Harris and Daniel Smith farms. (Now Frank Kendall's, Slayton Kendall's and Olney Farms).

Apparently this division did not please every one because they held a special meeting January 24, 1798, and voted to divide the town into two separate districts; the east line of the Jonathan Burnam farm, now Dan Rich's, to the east side of Samuel Davis', now Sundgren's, to be dividing line. Two days later a warning was posted to see if the town would reconsider its vote in regard to dividing the town and "to see if the Town will agree to all come into one District and build a House in the senter as near as may be consistent." They met, passed over the articles and voted to divide the town into two districts as was divided last March, same as the first division made.

In 1798 it was voted North School District shall have liberty each man to "lay out his School money" as they shall think fit for the year. Just how did each man do that thing? Possibly no school was provided for that year. No other mention is made of schools or school money.

In the first book of land records we find that Jonathan Atherton in 1799 did grant, lease and landlet to the school committee a certain piece of land for the use of the No. School District on the west line of Jonathan Burnam's land, now Dan Rich's, on the south side of the road near the brick yard. This piece was 40 by 50 feet and the town was to have and to hold the said land as long as the "committy shall ceep a school house for the use of ceeping a destrict school from time to time and they may meet on the Sabbath or hold town meetings or Destrict meetings." The town could hold the land as long as "the building was used for school purposes and no longer and the destrict shall have liberty to moov the house in case the Destrict shall think it not best to ceep a destrict school insaid House."

This location as well as that of the South District schoolhouse were two of the most beautiful spots to be found in Baltimore, which is a town of many scenic advantages.

In 1800 the town meeting was held in the North schoolhouse and it was voted that the "oughtside dore poste of the North Destrict School house to be the sine poste."

After the final decision was made that the town be divided into the North and the South Districts, each district supported and managed its own school entirely independent of the other.



The book of records for the South District began in 1809. That schoolhouse was located on the top of the hill leading from Henry Hammond's to Louis Sundgren's on the upper side of the road. An abrupt ending in the wall marks the site; the foundation stones can still be seen.

Possibly the school district had not been organized previously to 1809 as the selectmen called the first meeting March 22, 1809, "being requested by six of the inhabitants." They met and "opened said meeting by the 'sistence of one of the Selectmen, chose Reuben Bemis maderator, Amasa Gregory district clerk, Reuben Bemis, William Davis and Amos Bemis Commeety man, Edmund Batchelder collector." They voted and raised one dollar and fifty cents for repairing the schoolhouse and fifteen dollars for "schooling" before voting to "dissolve" the meeting.

The next meeting was held April 23, 1809. The "4ly" article in the warrant read: "To do any other business with respects to school house or repairing the old school house or build a new one as the Destrict may think best when met."

At this meeting it was agreed that the families of James Chittenden and Simeon Rumrill residing in Weathersfield should be annexed to the South School District of Baltimore. James Chittenden was chosen a "a commeety man" and they voted to raise fifteen dollars for school this summer and twenty dollars to repair the schoolhouse. We infer from these records that the schoolhouse was an old building, possibly one used for a school when Baltimore was part of Cavendish, but we have no proof.

April 12, 1811, another meeting was warned, the third article being "to raise a suitable sum of money to finish the school house." The records of this meeting and others are not to be found until the year 1818 when we find Manasseh Boynton district clerk, David Chaplin collector, and they voted and raised forty-five dollars for schooling.

In 1819 they had two months of summer and two months of winter schooling, raised forty-eight dollars for the use of schooling, voted to have  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet of wood per scholar from 4 to 18 years of age. Amasa Gregory bid off the delinquent's wood at 4s. 9d. per cord. They continued to vote for four months schooling a year but raised only twenty-six dollars a year to be laid out for that purpose.

In 1824 they voted "that the Board be devided by the Scholar" also "if they dont git thair wood shall pay 70 cents per coord." The summer school began June 1st, and the winter term began Dec. 1st. In 1826 they quoted 5 mills on the dollar to defray school expenses.

We may wonder how they managed to pay their bills with so small an appropriation. But when we read that Martha Robinson received \$5.34 for eight weeks services instructing school and Baxter Burrows received \$24 for a two-month winter term, we readily grasp the fact that a little money paid for much schooling in those days.

April 5, 1828, it was voted to raise \$10 for the use of school, but on the next Dec. 8th they voted to reconsider the vote of April 5, 1828, concerning the winter school, also the vote for raising ten dollars for the use of school. December 13 they called another meeting in the interests of a winter term which meeting was adjourned without delay. This corroborates a statement of Abbie Davis Haskell's that no school was held in that district in the winter of 1828, when she was a pupil of that school.

The next April they were led to call another meeting to see if the district would have a summer and winter school, to see if the district would raise money, wood and board to support schooling, and to see if the district would join with District No. 1 to have four months schooling next summer.

Much interest prevailed in the meeting as shown by the record. They voted two months summer and two months winter school, to sell mistress' board to lowest bidder. David Chaplin bid off four weeks at 49 cents, Amasa Gregory two weeks at 48 cents and Obed Thurston two weeks at 49 cents per week and to board by the scholar for the winter term. Think of the cold spare beds those unfortunate teachers had to occupy!! They voted to raise 34 cents on the scholar between 4 and 18 years of age to be laid out in wood at 90 cents per cord. All this was sudden generosity but there is not any mention of joining District No. 1.

In November 1830 a meeting was called to see if the district would join with District No. 1 to have a winter school. They met and voted to raise money for winter schooling by subscription. Obed Thurston bid off the chance to put in 5 cords of good hard wood at sixty-five cents per cord. Hyron Henry was to keep the school. Again utter disregard was shown the proposal to unite with District No. 1.

Raising money by subscription was evidently not too satisfactory, and in 1830 they voted to raise money for the support of the summer and winter schools on the grand list. The teacher's board began to be higher. In 1833 David Chaplin bid off 3 weeks of the mistress' board at 65 cents per week, and Oren Chittenden bid off 2 weeks at 65 cents. That year they were to see if the district would have some dry wood. No record is found that they voted for dry wood that year, but in 1834 they voted to have  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cords good dry hard wood and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cords green wood. Those old fireplaces did require much wood.

By 1834 the district must have been in a belligerent mood. The warrant called for the usual articles to be voted. They met, chose the moderator and district clerk, then passed over every article including the one relative to uniting with District No. 1. But on May 12 they met, agreeable to warning, and transacted all the usual business except winter term of school. Strangely enough, no mention was ever made in the records of any consideration being given to the matter of uniting with District No. 1.

The story of District No. 2 as a separate unit ended that year, 1834. The next April the selectmen called a meeting of all the



inhabitants to be held April 18, 1835, to organize a school district. They met and chose John Piper moderator, Joshua Leland clerk. That same day William Davis, Earle Woodbury and J. M. Boynton petitioned the clerk to call another meeting with the article, “6thly to see if the district will choose a committee to locate a school house in sd. district”. They met and voted to pass over the sixth article in the warrant, but they did vote to have the school taught 6 weeks in the summer at the South schoolhouse and the other six weeks at the North schoolhouse and four of the first weeks of winter school taught in South and the other 8 weeks at the North schoolhouse. The children of Baltimore were now to receive 8 extra weeks of schooling, and the feeling of unity was cultivated which hitherto had not existed. It was also voted to have 3 cords of good hard wood 3 feet long cut and split “suitable to be sawn for a stove” which is the first mention of a stove being used. During the year 1835 and ’36, this plan of combining the schools and alternating schoolhouses was carried out.

Rev. C. W. Hodges, Baptist minister in North Springfield, made the following in his diary: “Sept. 18, 1835—Preached in the South school house Baltimore. House full—Assembly attentive.”

Let us now consider the story of District No. 1, the North District, which is not recorded until 15 years after the schoolhouse was built. It was a much larger school than District No. 2 and had twice as many families to support it. There was never any question as to whether they would have a winter term or not, and their new building did not necessitate much repairing. Their warrant contained practically the same articles to be voted upon as those for the South District. They bid off the teacher’s board “Jona. Woodbury three weeks, one of man and two woman, John Woodbury one of man, two of woman, L. Houghton one of man, S. Houghton one of man and two of woman, J. Piper one of man, L. Harris one of man, S. Martin two of man and one of woman, Col. Martin one of woman, Sd. bord was bid off at one dollar per week.” They certainly were extravagant at first in District No. 1 in the matter of board. The next year J. Atherton bid off the board at \$1.04, but this was the limit. By 1821 the master’s board was bid off by Luther Graves for 64 cents. Economy was again the watchword.

They also voted to raise the wood on the scholar from four years to eighteen of age at one foot per scholar (instead of the 2½ ft. required in District No. 2). In 1820 they voted to raise “eight corde of harde wood two and a half feete long.” Samuel Hastings bid off the wood for fifty cents per cord. (Later they raised ten cords of wood and chose an inspector each year.)

It became the practice to set up the master’s board to lowest bidder, and the committee was instructed to provide for the mistress’ board. Often the school mistress was a grown-up daughter of the town’s people. She lived at home where she probably earned her board; so why should the town feel obligated to pay for it?

In 1828 it was voted to shingle the schoolhouse in District No. 1. Esq. Litch bid off the shingling at twelve dollars and forty cents



to be done by Nov. 1st. It appears that the first roof lasted twenty-eight years. By this time a new generation had grown up, and the old agitation had been renewed with fresh vigor.

In 1827 the warrant for town meeting had contained the old battle cry "5th To see if the town will all unite in one district," but they voted to pass over the article. In 1829 the effort was repeated with the same results. Two years later, March 1831, they voted to unite the two school districts the year ensuing. But a meeting was promptly called for the 5th day of April "to see if the town will agree to divide the Town of Baltimore into two school districts," and they voted to divide into two school districts as they formerly were.

The matter rested until the March meeting two years later, 1833, when the same old article in different wording appeared in the warrant. They voted to appoint a committee of three to ascertain the center of the town and the most convenient place for a schoolhouse. They chose Jonathan Woodbury, Stephen Robinson and Willard Hastings as committee. Evidently they did not make much progress as the next March, 1834, they were "to see if the town will unite in one district or divide the town for the better accommodation of the inhabitants." Again they voted to pass over the article.

The same question was voted upon the next year, 1835, and they voted to unite in one district so that there be one school district in town. So for a space of about two years there was only one school as previously noted.

We must be mindful of the fact that each school district was a power of itself and each felt its own independence. Even in 1835 and '36, when the arrangement to have but one school, first in one schoolhouse then in the other, seemed to be advisable and satisfactory, District No. 1 was by no means hushed and subdued.

In 1835 they passed over an article in their district meeting to locate a schoolhouse in said district. The next year, 1836, three articles appeared in the warrant relative to building and locating a schoolhouse. They decided to submit the location of a new schoolhouse to a disinterested committee of three men out of town, also chose Jona. Woodbury, Joshua Leland and Luke Harris Jr. to draw a plan of a schoolhouse. These plans did not bring forth results because in Dec. 15, 1836, of the same year they met again to act on practically the very same articles and voted to pass over all of them. This closes the record of the old North District No. 1 because of the new division of districts voted in town meeting.

The year 1836 almost passed without further action on this controversial matter. But alas! A meeting was called on Dec. 31 to choose trustees of "sd. town for the purpose of receiving and managing such portion of the Public money as may be deposited in said town agreeable to the act passed by the legislature at its session last past." Also there was tacked on the following: "To see if the town will divide into two school districts." Jonathan Wood-



bury, Levi Piper and Willard Davis were elected the first trustees of the U. S. Deposit Money. They voted "to divide the Present district in such a manner as to take in all lands and inhabitants in the Town of Baltimore as are situated west and south of Joseph Atherton's west line and the east line of the Hasting's lot and the north and east line of the farm now owned by Orin Averill, north and east line of Amasa Gregory and the north line of David Chaplin's land."

At a later meeting the Southwest District was to be designated as No. 1 and would include the families from the Chester line near what is now called the Glenn Olney place to the Chester line below Henry Hammond's. All the other farms beginning with what is called the Sherwin place were to be in the Northeast School District No. 2. We have no record of what they did in the Northeast District, but much activity was recorded in the Southwest District.

In 1837 District No. 1, or the new Southwest District, met and organized March 20. William Davis was chosen moderator, Joshua Leland district clerk. On March 29 they held the second district meeting. They voted to have three months summer school the present season and that the committee provide a suitable place for summer school to be kept. Probably the old building of the South District was no longer suitable, and its location was not central for the new district. They chose William Davis, Jona. Woodbury Jr. and Joshua Leland a building committee to superintend the building of a schoolhouse. This building committee was authorized to investigate the most practical way and probable expense of building a schoolhouse and report the same in writing.

Sept. 14 another meeting was held and they voted to raise \$75 for the purpose of building a schoolhouse, also to build a schoolhouse in said district of the dimensions of 35 by 30 feet and that the walls of the house be built of stone. It was also voted that the building committee furnish bills of materials suitable for building a schoolhouse and receive sealed proposals for furnishing the same. It appears that the Southwest District was in dead earnest and businesslike in their efforts to get a new building.

October 19 they met agreeable to warrant and voted "that the site for school house be on or near the ground formerly occupied for a pound which is on Edmund Batchelder's place (*Volney Foster's place now*) "Sd. house to extend 30 ft. in front and 30 ft. back from the line of the sd. Batchelder's on the road into his land." They voted to sell the old South schoolhouse to highest bidder. Joshua Leland bid it off for \$5.50.

No further records appear for this year, but there is evidence something "was doing." Their plans were interrupted by the action taken at the annual town meeting. Their last meeting was held March 10 in which they rescinded their previous vote to raise \$75 to build the schoolhouse.

On March 5, 1838, the town voted "to measure from Levi Piper's and David Chaplin's in the road and find the center and locate a



spot for a school house as near the centre as the ground will admit and circulate a request to see who are in favor of the uniting in one school district and building a school house on said spot." This would have been on the old road somewhere near the bridge. Luckily, this idea did not prevail.

Another meeting was called for March 24 and they voted to unite in one district. This was final so far as action in regular town meeting was concerned.

April 7, 1838, the inhabitants of the school district in Baltimore met agreeable to warning and voted to have 3 committee men to superintend the building of a schoolhouse. Jona. Woodbury, William Davis and John Piper were voted said committee. "Voted to locate the schoolhouse on opposite side of road where stones are." Probably these stones were those drawn by the Southwest District to the site on Edmund Batchelder's land. "Voted to raise sum of \$150 to build school house. Voted that the building committee be authorized to furnish materials and make contracts for building a school house also to purchase a spot for school house and convey the old school house to Joseph Atherton."

April 27 they met again and rescinded the vote to locate a schoolhouse on the opposite side of the road where the stones were drawn for a schoolhouse. "Voted to locate a school house on the land of Wd. Mary Preston on the nearest convenient spot where stones were drawn, said location not to be farther south than the knoll where the spring is." This was the site of the present schoolhouse. "Voted to rescind that part of the vote in regard to conveying the old school house to Joseph Atherton and that the committee dispose of the building as they shall think proper." There is nothing on record as to the disposal of this schoolhouse.

The last town meeting in the North School District was held in September, and it was "voted to hold town meeting in future in the new stone school house now building in said town."

At the last meeting of the year held Dec. 1, 1838, they voted that the district hire a sufficient sum of the deposit money to defray the remaining expenses of building the schoolhouse. Let it now be added that the town of Baltimore paid interest on this money for exactly one hundred years, as it was in March 1938 that it was voted to pay the principal sum due on the U.S. Deposit Money. Probably the receipt of this money was instrumental in bringing peace to Baltimore after forty years of wrangling. Neither district was entitled to the use of all of it.

The first teacher in the new schoolhouse was J. Robbins. It is interesting to know that Emily Gregory, Ella Graves' mother, was the first woman teacher. She taught for three months at \$2 per week and boarded herself. Parkman Davis Jr. taught the next winter term of three months at \$20 per month. Some difference!

The school meetings had about the same articles to consider in their warrant as those of the previous districts except that article to see if the town would vote to unite. In 1840 it was voted to raise



one and a half cents on the dollar on the grand list of said district to defray the expense of schooling and to pay the interest on what the district had hired. In recent years the school tax has been as high as \$1.85 on a dollar of the grand list.

The master's board was bid off for one year, twelve weeks to Lyman Litch at 98 cents per week, the mistress' board twelve weeks to Oren E. Averill at 96 cents per week. The teachers, as in the case of the paupers, still boarded where people would keep them for the least money. They also "voted to have three cords of good hard wood maple, beach or burch well seasoned and prepared fit for the stove, delivered at the school house in said district and well piled up in the entry by the first day of Nov." Lyman Litch bid off the wood at \$1.20, and Orin Averill was elected inspector of said wood.

In 1845 Willard Davis bid off the cleaning of the schoolhouse for \$.75. Four years later they voted to have the schoolhouse cleaned inside throughout and windows outside. Fox Sherwin bid off the job for \$.99

The names of the first three teachers are a matter of record but no full account of the teachers is available until 1842. The district school treasurer's book reveals the following: 1842—Martha Sherwin taught 29 pupils, three mos. for \$12.00; 1842—Adoniram Bigelow taught winter term three mos. \$42.00; 1843—Pd. Mary Preston taught 3 mos. \$11.00; Pd. Wd. Mary Preston for board of mistress \$8.43; 1843—Pd. L. H. Hodgman teaching 3 mos. winter \$40.00; 1844—Pd. Allura D. Woodward teaching 3 mos. \$10.00; 1844—Pd. L. H. Hodgman teaching 3 mos. 41 pupils \$45.00; 1845—Pd. Eleanor Piper teaching 3 mos. \$12.00; 1847—Pd. Betsy Harris teaching 3 mos. \$12.00; 1847—Pd. Rodney Piper teaching 3 mos. and board \$47.23.

The only person to tell the writer of his school days in the North District was the late Charles Leland of Springfield. Mrs. Abbie Davis Haskell used to call at her father's old homestead and talk about her school days in District No. 2. The writer was a pupil herself in the stone house and remembers the structure very clearly.

Across the back of the room a board or boards were built against the side of the house at the right height to form a seat. Desks were arranged in front of this board. The stone houses necessitated wide window sills and the three double desks at the back were in front of the three windows. The sills being low there was not much against which to rest one's back. On each side were half-desks built up against the walls of the house. Those built beside the windows were extremely pleasant, those abutting the blank wall were unpopular, and the back seats in the corners were worst of all. As a five-year-old, the writer was assigned one of those back corner seats the first day as no one else deserved it. The desks were made of rock-maple planks and the backs were perpendicular to the seats. In those days the pupils' backs had to be adjustable rather than the desks, and it was not a matter of concern whether or not their feet ever touched the floor when seated.



The teacher's desk was on a small platform. The seat was built against the side of the house with the wall thereof for its back. The desk had a slanting top and was inclosed so that all that was visible of the short teachers was their faces. The tall teachers were really much more awe-inspiring. On the other side of the door from the teacher's desk was the only blackboard the room afforded which was probably the one put up by Willard Davis for 75 cents. A box stove near the center of the room shed its heat equally well in all directions but not equidistantly. The floor slanted toward the front of the room so the luckless pupil who dropped his pencil or apple in school time had to make a long trip to recover it, meanwhile being chided by the teacher to his humiliation.

Other teachers in the stone schoolhouse included Jane Weston, William M. Litchfield, Abby Lockwood, Julia Leland, Frederic Lockwood, David Fairbanks, Maria Washburn, Eliza Davis. Walbridge A. Field who was a brother of the late Fred G. Field taught the winter term of 1850, three months for \$45. His pupils were greatly benefitted by coming under the instruction of this worthy young man about to enter on his college career at Dartmouth. He boarded at Amasa Gregory's and was evidently appreciated by the district as he received a recommendation from the prudential committee of Baltimore upon completion of his term. This paper is still in existence and treasured by relatives. He afterwards became a congressman and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts.

Laura Bemis taught the summer school receiving \$24 and Marcella Leland taught the next winter term of twelve weeks for \$39. This was the first instance of a woman attempting the winter school. The next year they hired the same two teachers; so both must have been satisfactory. Betsy Harris taught several terms, also Betsy Litch and Electa Boynton, all town girls, the latter receiving Aug. 31st, 1857, \$31.50 for school teaching and board 12 weeks.

The town paid as much for the board as for the teaching. This was not placing much value on higher education. In 1854 the town paid Helen Lockwood \$12 for teaching school 12 weeks and paid \$14.40 to get her boarded. In 1857 the mistress's board was \$2 per week during the summer, but the master James O. Bates boarded through the winter at J. W. Leland's for one dollar. It is to be feared that some injustice prevailed, but luckily some competition arose.

Other familiar names of teachers of that period were Elizabeth Dartt, Rockie Lewis, Helen Preston, Jennie Demary, Emma Preston. Lucy Martin received \$16 for teaching summer school in 1867 and the same amount was paid for her board. But the next winter they paid Lewis W. Sanborn \$102 and only \$24 for his board. The following winter Augusta Ward was paid only \$48 for teaching and her board was \$25.60. Who shall say that women did not need to fight for their rights?

Ellen Stoughton, Abbie Preston and Ella Graves were the next teachers. Miss Graves evidently could handle the winter terms of



school which she did for \$75 including board. She was followed by Abbie Sabin and Emma Martin. In 1872 Sylvia Demary taught the spring term for \$2 per week and the town paid \$2 for her board. The following winter Addison Blodgett taught three weeks and one day of school and then quit. There is no record of any more school that winter. His father was the prudential committee that year, and he probably ruled that the teacher be son Addison or nobody. But a meeting was held and his office was declared vacant.

The next year Emma Martin was hired again and taught four more terms. The old system of setting up the teacher's board to the lowest bidder was continued until 1875, unless voted to leave board to lowest bidder with the condition that if the committee "can get her boarded cheaper or for the interest of the district it is his privilege." E. C. Sherwin bid off six weeks at \$2.96½. R. C. Sherwin the winter term at \$3 per week. But Alice Preston taught the next year 1875 for a yearly salary of \$80 including board. It will be noted that all four of the Preston girls gained experience in the Baltimore school.

Fannie Ward, later Fannie Raymenton, taught the winter school 8 weeks in 1877 for \$20. Francis Preston boarded her for \$16. The total expense for this year was \$85.35, but they had dropped from 24 to 16 weeks of school, which was certainly a backward step. The town had paid as high as \$2.50 per week for the teacher's board and the expenses were beginning to soar while the number of pupils had dwindled to less than ten. The town voted in 1879 to transport its pupils to Chandler School and Kendricks Corners. This was done at a total yearly expense of \$38.25, the cost of tuition being 25 cents per pupil per week. With the exception of one year this practice was continued until 1886.

It then became evident that some of the town's people desired to have a school of their own. On March 20 of that year they "met agreeable to warrant," chose all necessary officers, abated three tax bills, and voted to dissolve the meeting, completely ignoring the matter of raising money to provide for any schooling anywhere. April 6 another warrant appeared with the article 1st, "to see if the District will vote to authorize the committee to arrange with the officers of other school districts for the schooling of the scholars of legal age in Baltimore," and also an article to see "if the town will vote to raise money to pay for said schooling." To their discredit be it remembered that they voted not to arrange for any schooling and not to raise any money for it.

The next week they called another meeting to see if the town would vote to reconsider its vote not to make arrangements with other towns to school its pupils and 3rd, "To see if the district will vote to have a school or schools in said district the ensuing year" . . . . They met and voted not to reconsider the vote, to pass over "art. 3rd.," and voted not to raise any money, all of which meant that Baltimore had no spring term of school that year nor any schooling provided elsewhere.



By September the agitation had subsided somewhat. They held a meeting Sept. 15, 1886, and voted to have 12 weeks of school to begin Sept. 20. The schoolhouse was cleaned and repaired at an expense of \$14.25 and Ella Kendall was the teacher. The next spring Maude Kendall taught 10 weeks for \$35 and 12 weeks in the fall for \$54 paying her own board by working for Erwin Sherwin.

By 1890 the schoolhouse showed the need of extensive repairs. A meeting was held Aug. 9 "to see if the district will vote to build a new school house or repair the old one and to see if they will vote to raise money for the same." It was unanimously agreed to put in all new windows, new doors and casings, make plastering good and fill cracks in the walls with cement and have new seats, not to exceed sixty dollars in cost. This appropriation did not meet all specifications probably as they did not get new seats. The teacher was provided with the table now in use and a comfortable chair; windows with three long narrow panes in each sash were installed.

These repairs did not satisfy everyone for long. In March 1893 they voted again to repair the schoolhouse and put in seats. There was much talk that the old stone walls were no longer safe, and it was not practical to consider repairing them. Aug. 14, 1893, it was voted for F. Z. Preston to see about buying lumber for the new schoolhouse and other materials that were needed. The spring term of 1894 was kept in the building across the lawn from Francis Preston's house; the fall term of school was kept in the present building with Emma LaFountain as teacher. Here ends the story of the old stone schoolhouse. It is interesting to note that this year also marked the date of the 100th anniversary of the organization of Baltimore as a separate town.

But the story of buildings and teachers alone, however complete, is not entirely satisfying. Then, as now, the main purpose of school was to prepare children for better living and higher citizenship. Before closing the story of the first three schools of Baltimore, let us give some space and time to the cause and result of all these endeavors and expenditures and the pupils of the first hundred years.

We read that Baltimore at one time had 115 pupils. This may have been before the days of the stone schoolhouse as they began about that time to record the families entitled to send children to school and later the children's names were also recorded. Forty-one pupils in 1844 is the largest number recorded after 1838.

Many large families of children lived in Baltimore in the early 1800's. Jonathan Woodbury brought his bride here in 1790 and raised 10 children. Noah Piper's family had eleven children, Waldo Cheney's ten; Parkman and William Davis each began married life in Baltimore, the former having twelve children, the latter eleven. All the families had some children, the Gregorys 8, Batchelders 5, Houghtons 11, Boyntons numbering at least five. So possibly the two schoolrooms did have as many as 115 pupils.

That those early schools served their purpose well is evidenced by the splendid improvement in keeping the records and accounts of



the town. The calibre of the young men and women who went out from Baltimore and became prominent in the affairs of the world spreads a luster on the accomplishments of those early schools. As some pages of this history will be devoted to the early families, the achievements of those early pupils will be reserved for that section.

### III. THE STORY OF THE POOR.

Contrary to scriptural promise Baltimore did not have the poor with her always nor did she intend to have them, according to those first records. They give us a clue to the reason that when the article appeared in the warning, "To see if the town will raise any money to defray town charges if thought expedient," the voters could and often did vote to pass over that article. Imagine going to town meeting and not voting to raise any money! Those days are gone forever.

However, it is evident that in 1801 disturbing rumors began to be prevalent and for the first time we find this entry which is copied in its original spelling.

*"State of Vermont*

*County of Windsor Ss*

*To Ether Constable in  
Baltimore County of Windsor  
Greting*

*You are hereby required to summon the Widow Deliverance Burnam to gather with her family (viz) Eunias Burnam, Rufis Burnam, Lydia Burnum, Submit Burnum, Thomas Burnum, Releaf Burnum, Metilday Burnum, now residing in Baltimore to Depart said Town thereof fail not but of this precept and your Doings herein Due return make according to Law given under our hands at Baltimore this 25th. Day of December A. D. 1801"*

Signed by two of the Selectmen

Three other families were also given a like precept. We note the date, Dec. 25, and are moved to comment that the Christmas spirit was not exactly rampant in the minds and hearts of those selectmen. They should have been serving Wd. Deliverance and her brood with a Christmas turkey and all the fixings rather than conjuring up precepts such as these to serve her.

Another grand gesture was made in 1808 when three individuals and four families were ordered to depart said town. The last instance on record was in 1817 when Susannah Whighting had a summons to depart read in her hearing by Amasa Gregory, Constable. Very likely Susannah was not able to read.

Mr. Claire Persons was the recent W. P. A. appointee to make a survey of the town's records and collect and arrange the historical data found therein. Being an elderly gentleman and conversant with early history, his opinion was sought as to what the real motive for such actions could have been. He stated that primarily people were warned out of town when it was thought there was danger of their becoming dependent. It did not mean that they had to leave town but forstalled their asking for help from that town. Just where they were to get help was problematical.



Instances were related, however, that proved that sometimes a man was ordered out of town because someone wished to play a practical joke on him or again he might be the victim of spite or ill will. Cases had been known where company stayed too long and a summons was served at the whispered suggestion or request of an unwilling host. Again in the spirit of kindness, two or three persons or families would be ordered out at the same time to save the feelings of the one they particularly wished to impress with the precept.

It is painfully evident that the townspeople had reasons to fear certain of these families might become town charges because the records prove that they did not depart said town and did eventually become paupers and thereby incurred heavy expense to the town. Phebe Gates must have been overlooked when the above precepts were being served, and in 1812 a committee was appointed to look into the state of Wd. Phebe Gates' property. It may have come as something of a surprise that Phebe Gates belonged in Baltimore. The Gates family apparently had no interests in or connections with Baltimore. This farm was not included when the families on the several farms were designated for each of the two school districts, and no road was surveyed to their dwelling by Baltimore. Their home was at the southwestern end of Hawks Mountain in the Spaulding lot, so-called, over the hill back of the Glenn Olney place. A cellar hole still remains to mark the home of Phebe Gates. Its former owners also had names wholly foreign to Baltimore lore. But when Baltimore was set off from Cavendish in 1793, Phebe's homestead probably just barely slid under the wire into Baltimore even if the dwellers thereon never severed social connections with Cavendish.

We may rest assured that the site of Phebe's home was in Baltimore as the selectmen of that day were too alert to let a pauper come upon the town for support that did not belong to them. And they were justified in their position on this matter. They were but a handful of hard-working people wrestling a living from uncleared hillsides for large families of their own. Why should they welcome further unnecessary or unwarranted burdens?

The committee to look into Phebe's property found her 62½ acres mortgaged to Henry Chandler. The selectmen bought up this mortgage for \$145, then sold the property to John Woodbury for \$240. This happened in 1812 and resulted in \$95 towards Wd. Phebe's support. In 1814 it was voted that if the selectmen can agree with any suitable person to maintain the Wd. Gates through life and secure the town, that the town will pay one hundred dollars. Probably Phebe's chances for longevity were too good as no one accepted this offer.

In 1816 the following article appeared in the warning,—“To see what method the town will take to provide for the support of Phebe Gates the year ensuing.” They voted to “Vandue the Widow Phebe Gates for one year,” which they did and she was bid off by “Robert Bemis for one year at seventy five cents per week if



she lives so long the town to find her wearing apparel and pay her doctoring said Robert to have her labour." The next year she was bid off by David Chaplin Jr. for 58 cents a week, quite a reduction, but the town agreed to pay her funeral charges if taken away. The town had no need to arrange for her funeral for many years.

In 1821 it was voted "any person belonging out of town to have privilege of bidding the Widow Gates off." Accordingly Jesse Spaulding of Cavendish bid her off at 45 cents a week. He was to have the use of her bed and bedding in addition to her labor. In 1822 he bid her off for \$30 a year but was "to find her a pair of shirts and keep all her clothing in repair, extra."

Phebe was on the program for town meeting every year, and it seemed necessary to make an additional stipulation each time. In 1824 Jesse was to keep Phebe but not to apply for doctor but once before notifying town. Also voted that the selectmen may appropriate at their discretion as much spirits as they shall think proper in case of sickness not to exceed two gallons. Who shall say they were not generous in spirits in those days?

Jesse Spaulding continued to bid Phebe off until 1827 when she was bid off by Ephraim Paine presumably of Cavendish "upon same conditions she was kept last year." She came back to Baltimore in 1829 to Edmund Batchelder's at \$50 per year. Next year he bid her off at \$35.90. In 1831 she went to David Chaplin. She must have passed away before March meeting 1832 as they voted to pass over the article to provide for the poor and they raised only \$25 that year to defray town charges. This was the method used to support a pauper in those days. All the homes were comfortable to which Phebe went when bid off. What better could be done?

But the town's troubles with the poor were not over. Back in 1825 one man whom we shall call J. L. evidently became weary of supporting himself and family.

The town held a special meeting Oct. 25, 1825 "to see if the town will build, purchase or hire house of correction or work house in which to confine and set their poor to work—also to see if the town would raise money for the above purpose, also to maintain it, appoint officers to govern such house also make and establish necessary rules, orders and regulations for such persons there committed." They voted to have house of correction or workshop and designated Jona. Woodbury's shop for that purpose.

Joseph Atherton, Jonathan Woodbury, Amasa Gregory were the committee to superintend it with all the powers the statute provides. It is probable there were not three men in the state better constituted to strike terror to the heart of the lazy individual than these three were. This may all have been a ruse to make it possible to hold a threat over J. L.'s head. They next proceeded to dispose of J. L. and his unfortunate family. They set him up to the highest bidder (evidently expected him to earn something). Manasseh Boynton bid him off until March meeting and took a chance of getting \$3 worth of labor out of him besides his board, said \$3 to be



paid town. His wife and youngest child were bid off by Amasa Gregory until March, the town to pay 50 cents per week for their keep. The older daughter went to Edmund Batchelder who agreed to clothe her and clear the town from all expense for 24 cents per week; the town was to clothe J. L., his wife and youngest child. They had to raise \$30 extra to care for this family, also voted that the committee dispose of J. L.'s belongings at the best advantage.

At the town meeting J. L.'s cause was not a popular one. They motioned to try the minds of the town whether they thought J. L. able to labor and it was decided in the affirmative. They had the ability in those days to detect plain laziness when they saw it without referring cases to the Lahey Clinic, or resorting to X-rays. After reaching this decision they voted not to furnish J. L. a house and shoemaker tools, but to vendue him off again to highest bidder. They also voted to agree with some suitable person to oversee the poor.

Excitement may have been rife at this meeting as they adjourned until April 3 without electing an overseer of the poor. They then met and voted to pay Nancy Bemis \$1.50 for nursing J. L.'s wife, to allow Jona. Woodbury \$4.13 for keeping town poor, to allow Amos Bemis \$2.25 for meat delivered to town poor. They chose Joseph Atherton overseer of the poor, but he refused to serve. Apparently the selectmen served as overseers. In 1827 it was voted to allow Jona. Woodbury 37 cents for corn delivered to J. L. also to allow Benj. Page \$2.23 for provisions delivered to J. L. And it was furthermore voted that the overseers of the poor should not grant any more relief to J. L. except they proceed with him according to law.

The possibility of life in the workhouse already planned may have had disquieting effects on J. L.'s dreams of a carefree, easy existence. At any rate his name does not appear on the records in any capacity. He may have decided Baltimore was no place for a lazy man; anyway he sought new pastures. The taxpayers probably welcomed his departure.

The expense for the town poor was not excessive for a number of years. Some help had to be given Simeon Burnham and his wife Rachel. At her death a bill of \$3 was paid for medical services for her and \$8.40 paid for her burial expenses. Hers could not have been a costly funeral but heavenly peace does not depend upon pomp and floral display. Simeon was then set up to the lowest bidder, "the town to buy his wearing apparel, pay his doctor's bills and funeral charges if he was taken away, the one that takes him shall do his necessary mending washing and nursing." He was bid off by Lyman Litch for \$25. The next year it was stated that the town pay his doctor's bill if any should be necessary and pay his extra nursing if he should be sick over one week and the one that took him should do his necessary mending and washing, and mend his boots and shoes if necessary. He was bid off again by Lyman Litch for \$24.25. No further mention is made of Simeon; probably

he died or moved away or perhaps it was then the town relinquished its practice of setting paupers up to the lowest bidder.

The writer is under constraint to write a paragraph in justification of Simeon's son Isaac. It should be entitled the "Pauper Who Never Was." He was not over-bright, and the old folks used to tell of his peculiarities and the remarks he used to make. His parents lived on the old road and Isaac used to declare "that his house was built upon solid rock and the rock was built upon the 'green sward' so it couldn't get away."

It appears that the town expected Isaac to become dependent and, wisely enough, assumed responsibility for him when he was quite young. By 1854 they began to record the overseer's account as furnished by the auditors at town meeting. A copy of one such might prove interesting.

*March 4, 1856—Having settled with the Overseer of the Poor we find he has received*

<i>On last year's settlement</i>	\$ 28.75
<i>Of the town treasurer</i>	177.84
<i>For Isaac Burnham's labor</i>	60.00
	<hr/>
	\$266.59

*We find he has paid out*

<i>For wearing apparel for Isaac Burnham</i>	\$ 15.93
<i>For spending money for Isaac Burnham</i>	4.50
<i>For boarding Amos Page</i>	101.40
<i>For nursing and wearing apparel</i>	8.72
<i>For rum and sugar</i>	.38
<i>For boarding George Page</i>	22.68
<i>For doctor's bill and wearing apparel</i>	2.20
<i>Paid Raymond Page for keeping Amos Page</i> <i>(his father)</i>	97.59
<i>For the year ending March 5, 1855</i>	\$253.40
<i>Balance due from Overseer</i>	\$ 13.19

According to the records Isaac Burnham was more than self-supporting. His wages fluctuated from \$60 down to \$36 and back to \$50.50 the two years before he died in 1865 and the balance went into the town treasury. The records state that the town paid out \$60.22 for his wearing apparel, nursing, digging grave, coffin, medical attention, and funeral expenses. Isaac was the last of a numerous family of Burnham that had lived in Baltimore since and before 1794.

Burying Isaac was not the end of the Burnham difficulties. He had heirs watching and waiting in the offing who had an administrator appointed to settle his estate. In June we find the following notice was placed on record containing two articles viz:

1. *To see if the town will authorize the Selectmen to settle with Admr. on Isaac Burnham's estate and to give any directions in relation thereto as the town shall think proper.*



2. *To see if the town will raise money to effect settlement and, if thought proper, to vote a tax for that purpose.*

This comprehensive and well-worded notice did not bring forth the desired results. They met, chose Thomas Preston moderator, then voted to dissolve the meeting without date. The populace was aroused, disgusted, dismayed and unprepared to act on the subject.

By Nov. 19, however, they met and voted to raise 40 cents on the dollar to replenish the treasury for the money paid to settle the estate of Isaac Burnham. A receipt dated Aug. 2, 1869, appears on the records for \$225 "in full of all clames and demands whatsoever against said town in favor of the estate of Isaac Burnham late of said Baltimore deceased," and signed by "L. L. Lawrence Admr."

Probably the accumulation of Isaac's wages rightfully belonged to his heirs. "The question before the house is"—if Isaac had lived to a ripe old age and become helpless in his latter years, would those same watchful heirs afforded him any attention or assistance? If those same heirs were solicitous as to Isaac's welfare while living, it is not so recorded.

Be it remembered that the last scion of the Burnham family to live and die in Baltimore was not a town pauper as generally reported. There is an old saying, "Poverty is no disgrace." In some cases that is true. But when a man is ordered out of town in his young days and afterward "by illness and debauchery so spends, wastes and lessens his estate as to expose himself and his family to want and suffering and the town to charge and expense" so that an appeal is made to the Probate Judge for a guardian to be appointed for him, then that man's poverty becomes a disgrace and the problems which devolve upon a small group of people are difficult to solve.

It is not the purpose however of the sketch to bring to light all the records might disclose of the seamy side of the citizens of Baltimore. It was the methods used rather than the individuals involved that should interest us. We believe those early founders of the town encountered many perplexing situations. Viewed in light of present day leniency they may have seemed hard-hearted and penurious. Let us remember that in those days other towns of size and wealth adopted similar measures with their poor. Even the State's prison then was a penal institution in reality, and no one dreamed then that the Federal Government would one day assume the role of Santa Claus.



## IV. THE STORY OF THE HIGHWAYS

If we refer to that section of this effort which is designated as "Baltimore in its First Year" we shall find that at the very first town meeting held in 1794 they voted twenty pounds for the use of highways, elected Jonathan Woodbury and Francis Burnam highway surveyors and also voted that the selectmen should lay out "rodes." This action would indicate that what is now Baltimore had no laid out roads while a part of Cavendish.

The selectmen evidently performed the task assigned to them promptly, for that same year the town held an adjourned meeting and voted that there should be three "rodes" as was "lade" out, one from Noah Piper's (Oel Converse's) to Weathersfield town line (Frank Davidson's) one from Weathersfield town line (near Dan Davis's) to Isaac Hildreth's (Volney Foster's) and to Mr. Bemis (beyond Geo. Cook's) and one from Mr. Briant's field to the road that leads from Noah Piper's to the town line (to Jehial Converse's) This road extended from back of Arthur Basso's house straight toward and nearly to base of mountain, connecting with present road near James Shepard's sugar house. They also voted to lay out one more road from Noah Piper's to south part of town. This was what is now called the "Old Road."

In 1795 it was voted that the listers should make up the highway rates and "Commit them to the highway survayors to be Worked out the fore part of the Sumer the money that was granted 1794." In 1798 they began to have three surveyors, Seth Houghton, Benj. Page and Ezra Redfield being elected, or one from each corner of the town.

In Nov. 1799, Mr. T. Barrett the County Surveyor surveyed for six different additions to the highways of Baltimore. A road was laid out from Luke Harris's (now Slayton Kendall's) to Chester line; said road was to be 158 rods long. Another road was laid out from Joseph Hildreth's (Volney Foster's Place) 233 rods long to the main road under the mountain. This road is now being used only as far as Shepard's corner. Road No. 3 began at a hemlock stump in the north line of Chester about 40 rods west of the northeast corner of said Chester (the elm tree at the corner bound), then running north 106 rods to the road formerly laid out by Samuel Davis to Chittenden's. This will be recognized as the road by the Hammond place.

In June 1800 another survey was made of a road "beginning at the turn of the road a little west of the House lately occupied by Samuel Davis" (now L. T. Sundgren's) 78 rods (?) to Amos Bemis' northeast corner, now known as the Horton lot.

Another road was surveyed beginning at Levi Davis' southeast corner (near Dan Davis') then running on said Davis south line one hundred rods to the road leading to Springfield, then the same



course 164 rods to the crotch of the road running to Reuben Bemis then north 82 rods to Joseph Hildreth's shed (Volney Foster's).

The main road under the mountain was again surveyed. Beginning at Weathersfield line east of Col. Martin's the "trew copy" of the survey shows the road to have changed its direction at least fifteen times in its length of about 810 rods, or two and one half miles, ending at Luke Harris's. This road ran straight by the Upham place. For some unknown reason, in 1821 they changed this road and made the two abrupt turns in it at the end of the woods.

Another survey was made for a road from Chester line below Walter Pollard's place to the road by Waldo Cheney's, a distance of 552 rods "over the old road."

A road was surveyed from Weathersfield line then north 60 rods to Benj. Page's house (in Leland's pasture next place below Elroy Olney's), thence 158 rods to the road "by the corner of the Burying yard." This road evidently led directly by the Roy Olney house. The wide cow lane tends to verify this.

And, lastly, a road was laid out three rods wide "beginning, at an old Bass wood stump on the road leading from James Chittenden's to Francis Burnam's, thence running 72 rods nearly to Levi Davis' dwelling house, thence northerly 94 rods to the road near the house occupied by Daniel Farr." This road would have extended up the valley from the Dan Chittenden farm to the bridge on the old road. This survey was not made until Oct. 1800, and the next March they voted to "except" the road from Levi Davis' to Mr. Farr's as is surveyed. Probably this last road was never built as no traces of it are visible and the habitations of Levi Davis and Daniel Farr were not of long standing. No cellar hole for either one has been located as yet.

At each town meeting they voted for three surveyors, one each for the North, South and West "destrects". In 1804 they voted "to work out the highway Rates at Eight Cents per Our for a man and fifty cents per Day for Oxen." This amount was voted for several years; finally the price was raised to 75 cents a day for cattle and an ox shovel was purchased for eight dollars.

A booklet to be greatly cherished is one in the town clerk's possession in which the selectmen in 1799 made out the highway rates. The booklet now deeply tinged with yellow was homemade, two sheets of paper  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $7\frac{1}{2}$ " sewed together through the middle. The purpose of the booklet is well stated on the first page as follows: "To Mr. Stephen Robinson Sevaor for the North Destrect you are hear by Directed to See that the tax assessed in your Rate Bill is worcked ought on the Roads in your Destrect Worcking on the Road from Mr. Chaney's by Mr. Burnam to the School House and on the Road by Mr. Noah Pipers to said Pipers south Loine Allowin 66c per Day for a man and 33c per day for Oxen and 17c per Day for Cart and 17c per Day for a Plow.



Jonathan Woodbury

Seth Houghton

} Selectmen of Baltimore"

We will copy a few of the names as they appear in the account. The "D" at the top stands for dollars the "C" for cents.

To W. Stephen Robinson  
Seraor

	D	C
Joshua Martain June the 3rd	4	2
Joshua Martain	2	89
Waldo Cheney	5	80
Noah Piper	4	41

In 1806 a road was surveyed from John Woodbury's barn northerly 127 rods to the road leading by Seth Houghton's. This was probably connecting with the road that was surveyed to meet the road under the mountain...

In 1807 the town voted "to discontinue the road leading from the James Chittenden west line to the road leading from Springfield to David Chaplin Junr's During the pleasure of the town."

A new road was surveyed in Jan. 1817 beginning two rods east of John Woodbury's dwelling house and running northeasterly 110 rods to the road from Lemuel Houghton's house (James Shepard's) to Edmund Batchelder's. This John Woodbury was brother to Jonathan Sr. and built the dwelling house on the farm between Frank Kendall's and Geo. Cook's; the second survey mentioned above would give him a shorter route to the road leading to Springfield.

The next month, Feb. 1817, a meeting was called for March, and an article appeared in the warning "5thly to see if the town will accept of an alteration and survey of a road from John Woodbury's by Parkman Davis's (Frank Kendall place)." It was voted to accept, "if agreeable to survey bill, that piece of road laid from John Woodbury by Parkman Davis's and the piece of road surveyed in 1806 be discontinued from John Woodbury's to Lemuel Houghton." It would appear that it was a matter of controversy as to whether the highway should extend through the valley by Parkman Davis' and John Woodbury's or by what is now the Arthur Basso place. In 1823 the selectmen were Stephen Robinson, Amasa Gregory and Ephraim Martin. They surveyed and laid out a road beginning three rods and four links from the southeast corner of Benj. Litch's dwelling house, on the Litch lots so-called. This road was to run easterly all the way 170 rods to the center of the road leading from John Woodbury's house to barn. Evidences still remain that they started to build this road at the western end; however, fate was against it. In May 1829 a special meeting was held to see if the town will direct the selectmen to lay out or alter the road leading from Benj. Litch's to Springfield, also to see if the town will direct the selectmen to open the road laid out from Benj. Litch's to Earle Woodbury's, and to see if the town will lay out a road from Earle



Woodbury's to Obed Thurston's or Amasa Gregory's. This meeting would determine whether Earle Woodbury's place would be on the line of through traffic or not, and which farms would be at the end of the road. They met, voted to direct the selectmen not to alter the road leading from Benj. Litch's to Springfield, also not to open the road leading from Benj. Litch's to Earle Woodbury's, and to pass over all the other articles in the warrant. The fates were unkind to the John Woodbury place, that day as well as later.

Excitement has always been rife, so far as the town's highways have been concerned. As late as 1929 ballots were cast fourteen different times for road commissioner. The town was divided into two factions and evidently not a single voter yielded to the other's candidate. After fourteen ballots it was decided to let the selectmen appoint that worthy official. It would spice up this narrative considerably if the discussion taking place in times of excitement over roads had also been recorded.

That year of 1829 was filled with agitation over the road problem. In November the five road commissioners of Windsor County met in Baltimore on the petition of Jonathan Boynton and others to lay a road in said Baltimore from Benj. Litch's east of the now traveled road (the one that led up back of Arthur Basso's) to intersect a road near Widow Mary Preston's (now James Shepard's) "the Petition being read the premises examined and all parties heard, the commissioners are of the opinion the Prayer of said Petition ought to be granted." This road began at the stone bridge northwest of Mary Preston's and ran westerly 142 rods to the old road about 30 rods northeasterly from Benj. Litch's house. Parkman Davis was given damages of \$73.40 and Jonathan Woodbury \$45.77 which Earle Woodbury, on top of all his disappointment, had to help pay.

It also cost \$21.67 to pay the County Road Commissioners who ordered the town to pay all these bills and to make complete and open said road within two years. The town did not hurry to carry out these orders, for in March 1831 they began to consider the matter. They voted \$300 to be laid out in money or labor, also voted the three selectmen and the three highway surveyors be constituted a board to divide the road laid out by the commissioners into three parts according to their grand list and each highway district build the lot that falls to his share. It was voted that the selectmen should say how wide and how good it should be made and that the \$300 be laid out between Sept. 1 and Nov. 27 when the two years expired. The road was formally opened in April 1832.

It will be remembered that these were the years when meetings were held most frequently to see if the two school districts would unite; so excitement was not lacking for the residents of Baltimore in those days.

The road leading from the south end of this new road northerly to the cider mill owned by Earle and Jonathan Woodbury was discontinued also in 1832.

In 1834 the road was laid from the center of the old road leading from J. Atherton's to J. Woodbury's (near James Shepard's sugar



house) to what is now the corner near James Shepard's (to the old road between Mary Preston's and Jonathan Woodbury's.)

By 1836 Jonathan Woodbury must have built his house down on the new road where Arthur Basso now lives because the road "beginning at the place where Jonathan Woodbury's buildings formerly stood to where the new road crosses Mary Preston's" was discontinued.

By 1838 the selectmen finished laying out the road from the corner of the Horton lot to within one rod of the northeast corner of the dwelling house of Lewis Bemis. They voted to raise four cents on a dollar "in addition to what is raised by the state to build this road."

Probably no road was ever built to the Hastings' farm in the hollow below the Sherwin Place. In 1829 the town voted that Samuel Hastings be exempt from "highway taxes" as long as "he lives where he now does and does not request a road." Sluices and bar ways seem to indicate that the family might have had a way out through what is called the Eaton lot to the old road. No one today recalls any buildings on the place. Perhaps then as now good roads leading to or by a place added much to its value, attractiveness, and duration as a homestead.

There seemed to be much difficulty in getting a road from what was the Luke Harris place (now Slayton Kendall's) to the Chester line. That first road laid out in 1799 began near the Luke Harris dwelling house, then ran south 7 degrees east 74 rods, then straight south 10 rods, then south 5 degrees east 53 rods, then south 33 degrees west 21 rods to Chester line near Joel Hildreth's house, a total distance of 158 rods. It will be noted that this road ran east of south until near the Chester line when it made a bend toward the west of 38 degrees which made quite a distinct turn. The Joel Hildreth house was just over the line in Chester.

This was the road travelled for 22 years and possibly ran near the foot of the sand bank on the left. In 1821 there was another survey made. Beginning at Luke Harris' south line (not his house) at a stake a little east of the center of the travelled road and running 16 degrees 30 min. west, 30 rods 13 links to a stake, then south 17 degrees west (a very slight turn), 54 rods and 17 links until it strikes Chester line. This is probably the present road which runs west of south according to the National Survey Map.

In 1823 another road was surveyed beginning at a stake and stones standing south nine degrees east, five rods and ten links, from an apple tree in the southeast corner of the Luke Harris' south orchard so-called.

In the warning for the next town meeting an article appeared, "To see if the town will assist the west district in making a new road leading from Luke Harris to Chester line," and they voted to pass over the article. They also elected a new board of selectmen who discontinued and ordered to be shut the road as was surveyed from the Luke Harris' apple tree. Not very generous in spirit, were they?



A pent road had previously been laid out leading from the road from Luke Harris' to Caleb Leland's and ran westerly over to the Phebe Gates farm (now Eugene Dean's Spaulding lot). This pent road was also discontinued and ordered to be shut on this same day.

And *another* new road was surveyed that day to the Chester line, beginning 28 rods north of Luke Harris' south line at the center of the now travelled road, then south 7 degrees east 28 rods to Harris' south line. This road was much the same as the second one surveyed except that it had one more crook in it.

The road agitation now seems to have given way to the poor problem which was becoming very exciting and the question of uniting the school districts was renewed in 1827. Certainly those early inhabitants of Baltimore did not need to leave town for excitement.

In 1841 it was voted to raise twelve cents on a dollar of the grand list to be laid out on the road, almost as much as is raised now by the town.

In 1851 a road was surveyed from the east side of the town to the county road in Weathersfield. The nearest way then for those people to get to Springfield was down the road past Roy Olney's to the residence of Benj. Page, thence across the town line to Simeon Rumrill's. Then the road must have made a distinct turn as it passed directly by the Harris' and the Stevens' homes and came out on the road above Angeline Rumrill's, a very winding strip of highway. They petitioned for the county surveyors to come again. The road as surveyed began 14 rods northerly from John Piper's (now O. J. Converse's house) and the stake was on Phinehas Robinson's land. The survey ran south from 31 degrees east to 28 degrees east to 33½ degrees east to a stake in the line between the towns of Baltimore and Weathersfield on the north bank of the brook (?) a distance of 153 rods. The commissioners allowed Phinehas Robinson \$18 damage, Rodney L. Piper \$28, while Jacob and Luther Perkins then owning the land below received \$190 together. This road cut off a three-cornered piece from the Roy Olney farm, a three-cornered piece from John Piper's farm, and what is now the Bates and Emerson Leland pastures were severed in twain by the new road. Luther Graves paid \$5 for the expenses of the new road from his own pocket as did Levi Piper while John Piper and son Rodney paid \$15. This new road was continued to the county road by the town of Weathersfield. The road that turned above Angeline Rumrill's and passed by the Stevens' place to the Perkins' place was soon discontinued.

The last road survey was made in 1872 when the much-surveyed road leading from Slayton Kendall's farm past Glenn Olney's was altered so to meet the new road leading by the Chas. Chandler place (now Leon Downing's), said highway beginning in range of the southwesterly end of Putnam Thompson's barn fourteen links northeasterly of the westerly corner of said barn. Figure that out! This road extended 24 rods 11 links to Chester line, the end of the other road to Chester line being discontinued that same day.

It is interesting to note the location of the old road leading through the Chandler district. It turned to the right near Glenn Olney's barn and through the Hial Lockwood and Blake pastures to what is now called Rocky Ridge, thence to the road which formerly extended from the old mill to Will Stewart's farm, intersecting this road at right angles opposite Dan Perry's building. The road then passed above Will Stewart's house, then down the land, still plainly walled in, to the Race place, then down the steep hill to the Chandler schoolhouse. It will be seen that the John Chandler and Leon Downing places were not on the main road and the road ended at Leon Downing's, on what is now the back side of the house.



## V. THE "DOIN'S" AT TOWN MEETING

We read an entry in the town-meeting record book that they paid \$4.50 once "for a book to keep a record of the doins at town meeting in." It is interesting and revealing to examine those records of long ago from which we can form some idea of what it really meant for so few men to formulate a full-fledged and independent town government.

There were probably good and sufficient reasons why the people this side of the mountain desired to be in a town by themselves. This must have been a sadly neglected corner of the earth. Cavendish began to be settled in 1772. But there is no record of any school being maintained this side of the mountain when it was part of Cavendish. Evidently there were no laid-out roads as that was one of the very first items of business considered at the town meeting of that first year in Baltimore 1794. Mountains form very effectual barriers.

Noah Piper, Waldo Cheney and possibly Amos Bemis and Joseph Atherton were living here in the late 1780's. It is interesting to find that in 1792 Noah Piper, Joseph Atherton, Jonathan Woodbury and Levi Davis took the Freeman's Oath in Cavendish.

If we refer to the record of that first town meeting we shall find that they elected a moderator, town clerk, three selectmen, a treasurer, a constable, three listers, two highway surveyors, a collector, sealer of weights and measures and a grand "juryman" and just exactly seven different men were elected to hold all those offices. There were at least nineteen men in town but possibly the other twelve were absent and not voting.

The number of men holding office the next year was increased to eleven, and it was found necessary to "vote" two hog-reeves. It was their official duty to shut up stray hogs if their owners failed to keep them at home. By this time they had the town divided into two school districts, so they elected three school committee men for each "destrect." Fence-viewers were also found to be necessary; so two of them were elected. In 1796, when the town was but two years old they decided to have a pound and a pound-keeper. It is evident that it took much time and hard labor to enclose all the clearings with stone walls. Ever so many of those line walls are still in use; some were 150 rods and at least one was 192 rods in length. A strand of barbed wire on top of the wall helps to make the barrier more formidable, and the 1940 cattle and horses have great respect for electric fencing.

We, too, are wandering far astray. Let us return to 1796 when one great problem to be settled at town meeting was to keep the other man's livestock from going astray and doing actual damage.

We find they also had a tiding man or tithing man, Jonathan Woodbury. Possibly he collected a tenth part of the increase of the land for religious purposes, but we are more inclined to think

it was his duty to see that the Sabbath was properly observed, so that people might be under some restraint as well as the sheep and cattle.

In 1796 they also elected two haywards. They had to look after hedges and fences to keep cattle from going astray. With two pound-keepers, two fence-viewers and two haywards, stray cattle should have been unknown.

In 1799 the "4ly" article in the warning was "to see if the town will agree sum sartin' day for Holding March Meeting for the futer," and they voted that the annual meeting shall be on the first Monday of March. This was wash day, but we may be sure no woman of that day ventured near town meeting; so their interests were not affected. They decided to have another town officer, "Inspector of Leather." They also voted that the selectmen should "bye one pare of stelyargs to way four Hundred and steel bemes and brase Warts from pounds to one ounce and draw the money out of the Town Treasurer to purchis the same." Poor treasurer! He must have had that drawn look. They also voted that all rams should be confined between certain dates or "forfit the criturs."

In 1800 they voted a new town clerk who always attested to "a trew copy."

Possibly the hog-reeves didn't perform the duties of their office with dignity and dispatch, for by 1804 they were in the discard and it was voted that all swine should be confined from the first of April to the middle of October. There might be some benefit resulting by some such ruling in this day and age.

An article "3ly" was to see if the town would vote to raise any sum of money to defray town charges for the year ensuing. They "voted to purce over the third artical in the warrant." They did the same thing in 1811. Imagine doing that in these days!

Some years they had two pound-keepers and designated what building should be the pound. Often it was the pound-keeper's *leanter* or *lynter*, or *lentar*, or *linter*, or *leantar*, or *lentor*. After much mental concentration on that word the puzzle was solved at last: it was a lean-to!

1148185

By 1825 the town was electing three highway surveyors, three fence-viewers and three haywards each year. They had also begun the practice of voting the payment of the bills brought in by town officials, and then they were obliged to raise money to defray town charges.

The number of town officers continued to increase. In 1828 they had a committee of three men to settle with treasurer, another committee of three men to settle with overseer of the poor, and still another committee to superintend the schools. The next year if they didn't elect six petit jurors and three grand jurors, thirty-seven officers in all being elected! In 1839 forty different town officers were elected. Such incompatibility of town officers did not bring special legislation though. By this time it was sure proof that if a



man's name did not figure anywhere in the records, he was *non compos mentis* or else he just did not live in Baltimore at all.

For some years they voted in town meeting to pay bills due individuals. In the records for 1833 we read “voted to raise not exceeding twenty five dollars to pay town charges.” Following this entry are the items:

*Voted to allow Jona Boynton \$1.50 for his services as lister*

*Voted to allow Stephen Robinson \$1.50 his do-----do*

*Voted to allow Earle Woodbury \$1.50 his do-----do*

*Voted to allow Joshua Leland his account \$0.42*

*Voted to allow Luke Harris \$1.10 his account*

*Voted to allow J. M. Boynton his account \$0.50.* It is very evident that the people of those days kept track of their pennies.

The only town officials to be well paid one hundred years ago were the listers. In the year 1848 Zenas Graves and Levi Piper were allowed \$3 each for services as lister while Wm. Davis received \$7. He probably made out the grand list book. Probably the voters thought \$3 was just a wilful grab on the town treasury. The next year they were careful to stipulate that the listers should receive \$6.25 for their services. They actually beat them down to \$6 with the result that they had to elect a new board of listers the next year. “No profiteering” among town officials was evidently the watchword. Three auditors used to be elected to settle with the overseer of poor and three others to settle with the town treasurer. They made out their reports which were read at town meeting; according to the town clerks' records they were generally “axcepted.” John Piper, also son Rodney when town clerk, recorded these reports. They were very short and simple compared with modern town reports and we will insert one here for comparison.

*Baltimore, March 2, 1863*

*The auditors having duly settled with the Overseer of the Poor would report as follows:*

*We find he has paid out as follows:*

<i>For support of George Page's family.....</i>	<i>\$44.83</i>	
<i>For support of Almena Hastings.....</i>	<i>44.35</i>	
<i>For wearing apparel for Isaac Burnham.....</i>	<i>17.55</i>	
<i>For interest on money borrowed and postage.....</i>	<i>1.76</i>	
<i>For Overseers services.....</i>	<i>6.00</i>	<i>\$114.49</i>

*We find he has received as follows:*

<i>On settlement last year.....</i>	<i>\$14.85</i>	
<i>Of town treasurer.....</i>	<i>63.64</i>	
<i>Of Isaac Burnham wages.....</i>	<i>36.00</i>	<i>\$114.49</i>

*Having duly settled with town treasurer we find his account as follows:*

<i>Received on last year's settlement.....</i>	<i>3.63</i>	
<i>Reveived of Phineas Robinson, collector of taxes....</i>	<i>202.00</i>	
<i>Of trustee to loan surplus money.....</i>	<i>15.87</i>	
<i>Whole amount.....</i>		<i>\$221.50</i>



<i>We find he has paid out</i>	
<i>By order of Selectmen</i> .....	\$73.04
<i>By order of the Overseer of the Poor</i> .....	63.04
	<hr/>
<i>Whole amount</i> .....	\$136.68
<i>Balance in the treasury</i> .....	\$ 84.82

All important highway commissioners' reports of that day were not a matter for auditing as each of the three highway surveyors made out a highway tax bill against each taxpayer in his district specifying his share in money that he must work out on the road at so much per hour; once the price was as low as 8 cents per hour per man and 50 cents a day for an ox team. The school or schools also transacted their business wholly separate from the town; so the actual town report was not so very comprehensive.

The practice of recording the town reports was relinquished in 1866. Until 1912 it was the custom for the officials to read their reports in town meeting. It was not until 1912 that a town report found its way into every voter's home in Baltimore previous to town meeting. In response to a suggestion, the treasurer's wife wrote out a report of all money received and expended by the various officials. This report was copied in long hand by her, assisted by Mr. Chas. Dean, a selectman. This procedure continued for five years, the copies soon being typewritten, all for the modest expenditure of \$2 per year. By 1919 there were three auditors on the job, and 25 typewritten reports were prepared for distribution, costing \$11. In 1939 the first printed town report of Baltimore appeared, necessitating an outlay of \$35.40. So much for the evolution of town reports for Baltimore.

Beginning with the year 1828 the grand list books have been preserved for each year, the books being then printed by Simeon Ide at Windsor and furnished by the state. They were most awkward to handle being approximately 17 inches from top to bottom and 29 inches wide. The covers are of heavy bluish paper similar to blotting paper.

Each page is divided into columns, in the first column names of the taxpayers appear. Opposite each name is listed a poll tax set at \$10. Next column lists the number of acres each person owns, its appraisal, of which value 6% was figured as a balance. It must be stated in this connection that the number of acres on which taxes were paid was much reduced from one-third to one-half what the deeds called for. The reason for this decrease in actual acreage is not clear unless it meant less taxes to be paid the state. In 1821 at a convention of listers of Windsor County a sworn statement declared Baltimore to contain 1145 acres whereas it had an acreage of over 3000. In 1842 the state made a separate valuation; then it was that the figures regarding acres of land increased immediately.

The houses were appraised separately from the land. This is an advantage to would-be historians as it can be reasonably determined on what years new houses replaced the old. The tax on houses was



figured at 4% of their valuation, the latter being very low. The column devoted to mills, stores, and distilleries had no entries in this town. Livestock was assessed on a fixed valuation. Oxen were set in the list at \$2 each, other cattle 3 yrs. old were listed at \$1.25 a head, a horse valued at \$75 was \$6, a yearling colt was \$1.25, sheep were taxed 10 cents apiece. No chance for favoritism here on the part of the listers.

Carriages and clocks were taxed, watches both gold and common were set in the balance at \$4 and \$1 respectively, money was figured at 6%. In the 1830's instead of figuring a man's taxes on a grand list, they were figured on what was called his balance. Let us compute Wm. Davis' balance for the year 1836. He had property set in the list as follows:

60 acres land appraised \$600.00, 6% of that	\$36.00	
1 house \$437.00, 4% of that	17.48	
4 oxen \$8, 10 cows \$12.50, 4 2-yr.-olds \$3	23.50	
2 horses \$6, 1 2 yr. colt \$2, 1 1-yr. colt \$1.25	9.25	
57 sheep (no carriages, clocks, watches or money)	5.70	
One poll.....	10.00	\$101.93

This was Wm. Davis' "balance" for highway taxes, for county, town and other taxes. His balance was \$91.93 as he was allowed an exemption of \$10.00 because of an "equipped poll." In 1835 they passed over the article to raise any money. Had they voted 2 cts. on the dollar, his town tax would have been \$2.03.

The first town treasurer's book kept in 1825 by Benjamin Page shows much painstaking effort on his part, inasmuch as he copied every town order in full that he was asked to pay. The orders were also written in full, no printed slips to be filled in. We will jot down one such order that will show the difficulties Benjamin faced:

*Mr. Benjamin Page, Town Treasurer, Sir—Plese to Pay Jesse Spaulding thirty-five dollars it being for keeping town Poor the past year*

*Baltimore March the 7 1825*

Amasa Gregory

Jona Woodbury

} Selectmen

*A true cobby Benjamin Page Treasurer.*

It appears, however, that nine such entries were all that were required for the year 1825, the school and the highway accounts not being kept by the town treasurer as before stated.

The town clerk's duties were very similar to those of the present-day official. All deeds at first were written by hand, so were not so plain for copying. Book No. 1 had no alphabetical index. Each man's name was written in the front pages as he presented his deed for record and the page on which such paper was recorded. Succeeding records were indexed by placing the numbers of the pages on the same line. One page usually sufficed for recording any of the early deeds. Now it oftentimes takes as many as three pages.

List of Town Clerks of Baltimore  
from 1794 to present time.

Joseph Atherton	1794-1798
Joshua Martin Jr.	1798-1799
Joseph Atherton	1799-1800
Jonathan Woodbury	1800-1815
Jonathan Boynton	1815-1822
Joshua Leland	1822-1823
Benj. Litch	1823-1825
Jonathan Woodbury	1825-1831
Jonathan Boynton	1831-1838
Levi Harris	1838-1839
Jonathan Woodbury	1839-1840
John Piper	1840-1860(until his death)
Rodney Piper	1860-1868
George Davis	1868-1870
R. C. Sherwin	1870-1877
F. Z. Preston	1877-1885
G. H. Coffin	1885-1886
F. Z. Preston	1886-1889
C. W. Bridges	1889-1896
W. R. Bryant	1896-1903
C. L. Tuttle	1903-1905
F. I. Marble	1905-1908
Mary E. Day	1908-1910
W. E. Pollard	1910-1946

Possibly the duties of some of the town officers of those early days are not very clear in the minds of the modern readers. An inspector of leather was to examine all leather offered for inspection. If he found it well tanned, dressed, dried and fit for market he stamped a G on each such piece. If not fit for market he stamped a letter B. If any person made boots or shoes out of bad leather and sold the same under misrepresentation, he was fined \$2.50 for each pair of boots and one dollar for each pair of shoes, said fines to be paid to the treasury of the town. This measure probably placed a check on the itinerant cobblers who made shoes from inferior leather.

The sealer of weights and measures in each town was provided by the selectmen with the following measures: "one half bushel, one peck, one half peck, one ale quart, one wine gallon, one two quart, one quart, one pint, one half pint, one gill, one half gill, wine measure; one English yard, one fifty-six, one twenty-eight and one fourteen-pound weight, etc." These weights were used with scales and steel beam. In January of each year every person was notified and required to bring to the sealer all such weights and measures as he used in buying and selling. The sealer received two cents for each weight or measure proved and sealed by him. Once every ten years the town's beam weights and measures had to be tried and proved by the county standards.



The requirements for an "equipped poll" were a good musket with an iron or steel rod, a sufficient bayonet or belt, a priming wire and brush, two spare flints and cartridge box and pouch with a box therein sufficient to contain at least twenty-four cartridges suited to the bore of his musket, a canteen and a knapsack. Those men who were listed as having an "equipped poll" were not subject to a poll tax.

### *The Freeman's Meetings*

The first Freeman's Meeting of which there is a record was held Sept. 3, 1799. The record was made as follows:

*Baltimore September 3, 1799. At a Freeman's Meeting in this town on the first Tuesday of September was Brought in by the freemans Nineteen Votes Isaac Tichenor Governor and Votes for no other. Attest Sam Drury Constable. A true copy of the original Attest Joseph Atherton Town Clerk.*

In 1803 we read—"the following is a list of the Names of the free-men of the Town of Baltimore that brought in their votes for a Representative to Represent the State of Vermont in Congress of the United States.

<i>Joshua Martin 2nd</i>	<i>Reuben Bemis</i>
<i>Samuel Lockwood</i>	<i>Seth Houghton</i>
<i>Ephraim Martin</i>	<i>John Woodbury</i>
<i>Benjamin Page</i>	<i>Levi Davis</i>
<i>Ephraim Martin Jr.</i>	<i>Jonathan Woodbury</i>
<i>John Bigelow</i>	

It appears this check list named the men that came to vote rather than all those eligible to do so.

The next check list to be recorded was in 1820, the following is a list of the Freeman's names:

<i>John Piper</i>	<i>Benjamin Litch</i>
<i>Luke Harris</i>	<i>Luke Robinson</i>
<i>Joshua Martin</i>	<i>Amos Page</i>
<i>Levi Harris</i>	<i>Stephen Robinson</i>
<i>Luke Harris Jr.</i>	<i>Jonathan Woodbury Jr.</i>
<i>Joseph Atherton</i>	<i>Manasseh Boynton</i>
<i>Ephraim S. Martin</i>	<i>William Davis</i>

Jonathan Boynton was also present as town clerk.

It will be remembered that Baltimore sent no representative to the General Assembly until 1824. In that memorable year we find the above list augmented by the names of

<i>Joshua Leland</i>	<i>David Chaplin Jr.</i>
<i>Joseph Atherton Jr.</i>	<i>Cyrus Bemis</i>
<i>David Chaplin</i>	<i>Lyman Litch</i>
<i>Caleb Leland</i>	<i>Socrates Hastings</i>
<i>Edmund Batchelder</i>	<i>Amos Bemis</i>
<i>Benjamin Page</i>	<i>Joshua Maxfield</i>
<i>Amasa Gregory</i>	<i>Luther Graves</i>
<i>Parkman Davis</i>	<i>Silas Jones</i>
<i>Phinehas C. Robinson</i>	<i>Earle Woodbury</i>

In 1828 Jonathan Woodbury and Joshua Leland applied to the state for remission of state taxes for \$32.03 because of having no representative in General Assembly until 1824. Baltimore's grand list was \$1164.18 or less than the \$2000 as required by law. The petition was granted.

The town with others used to vote for councillors instead of county senators; otherwise the Freemen's meetings have not greatly changed.

### List of Representatives from Baltimore

1824-5	Benjamin Page	1869	Albin L. Thompson
1826	Joseph Atherton, Jr.	1870	Rollin C. Sherwin
1827	None	1872	Putnam J. Thompson
1828	Benjamin Page	1874	Sylvester Ellison
1829-30-1-2-3-4-5	None	1876	Orson D. Freeman
1836-7	Jonathan Woodbury, Jr.	1878	Erwin Sherwin
1838	None	1890	Francis Z. Preston
1839	Lyman Litch	1892	Charles W. Bridges
1840	Levi Harris	1894	Fred H. Olney
1841-2	William Davis	1896	Wayland R. Bryant
1843	None	1898	Foster H. Hammond
1844	Jonathan M. Boynton	1900	Henry C. Glynn
1845-6-7	None	1902	William A. Day
1848	William Davis	1904	Frank I. Marble
1849	Jonathan M. Boynton	1906	Walter E. Pollard
1850	Luther M. Graves	1908	Dwight P. Wetmore
1851-2	None	1910	Oel J. Converse
1853	Luther M. Graves	1912	Charles A. Dean
1854	Jonathan M. Boynton	1915	Frank L. Kendall
1855-6	Joshua Leland	1917	James E. Shepard
1857	William Davis	1919	Warren Huntoon
1858-9	Zenas H. Graves	1921	Walter E. Pollard
1860-1	Phinehas C. Robinson	1923	Herbert J. Pollard
1862-3	Rodney L. Piper	1925	Glenn E. Olney
1864	George Davis	1927-9	Volney E. Foster
1865	Joseph Leland	1931	Henry H. Hammond
1866	Charles A. Leland	1933-5-7-9-41-3	Annie Pollard
1867-8	Lewis Bemis		



## VI. BALTIMORE DESTINED TO REMAIN SMALL

It is not surprising to learn that Baltimore at an early date sought to enlarge her acreage by annexing contiguous portions of neighboring towns. In 1797 the warning for town meeting contained the article “6ly to see if the town will younite with Chester in Enaxing apart of Chester to the town of Baltimore.” At the meeting they “voted to Receve the North East Corner of Chester to be anexed to the Town of Baltimore as Chester with all the priviledges eaquel with the Town of Baltimore.” A committee was chosen to confer with the town of Chester. Nothing further is recorded about this action so possibly the “priviledges” extended did not appeal to Chester as a whole.

In September 1826 a special meeting was called with only one article in the warning “to see if the inhabitants of Baltimore wish to enlarge the town by annexing a part of Springfield, Weathersfield, and Chester to said town.” At that meeting they voted that Baltimore receive a part of Springfield, Weathersfield and Chester according to a certain survey by Samuel Hemingway to be annexed to said Baltimore. They also voted to receive Joshua Martin Jr. and the William Nichols farm if they should petition for same. These places were what is now the quarry house and the old house that used to stand below it near Albert Billings’. This movement was headed by Joshua Leland and a petition with 276 signers was sent to the legislature. The reasons given for the desired change were that it would be more convenient to attend town meetings as the distance was much less and roads were less hilly and mountainous. The school districts were to remain as they were. Among the signers were the Chandlers, Tobey, Phineas Leland, all of Chester, and the Chittendens in Weathersfield. The towns of Springfield and Weathersfield remonstrated, but not Chester, and the petition was not favorably considered.

Not discouraged, in 1835 a third and last desperate attempt was put forth to greatly enlarge Baltimore by annexing 2625 acres from the northeast corner of Chester, 2920 acres from northeast corner of Springfield and 857 acres from the southwest corner of Weathersfield, thereby increasing the acreage of Baltimore 6402 acres. The grand list was to be increased \$3063.40 by part taken from Springfield, \$1267.65 by part taken from Chester and \$615.75 by part taken from Weathersfield. Added to \$1600.60 which was then Baltimore’s grand list the total would be \$6547.40.

Abner Field was strongly in favor of the enlargement of Baltimore and he represented Springfield in the legislature that year of 1835. The village of North Springfield would have been in the new town of Baltimore. The proposed boundary was to pass near the Butterfield farm in Weathersfield, across Black River near the old covered bridge then crossing Selden Hill beyond Leon Aldrich’s in a straight line east and west and including Spoonerville, then turning and

running straight north until it intersected the southern boundary of Baltimore about two miles from its southeast corner.

Evidently North Springfield people favored this change. The petition with 85 names must have included most of the land owners of that village. Among the names were Sylvester Burke, Richard Bradford, Jotham Bartlett, John Field, Abner Field, the Griswolds including Dan, the wealthiest man in North Springfield, Socrates Hastings, fifteen Lockwoods, Eleazer Olney and John White.

With Abner Field at the helm it seemed probable that this petition would have fair and easy passage.

A favorable report was obtained inasmuch as it was enacted "that a committee of three be appointed by this Legislature to examine as to the propriety of annexing a part of the towns of Chester, Springfield and Weathersfield to the town of Baltimore and to make their report to this legislature at their next session." This was making splendid progress and the dream of an enlarged Baltimore with a village of the same name nestling in the valley stood a chance of coming true.

But woe betided them. A remonstrance came from Springfield with 266 names on it declaring that Springfield had no notice of the meeting, that the hearing had not been legally held. They further expressed themselves, "Your memorialists would therefore humbly represent that in their opinion it would be greatly prejudicial to the interests of the town of Springfield and would greatly derange the present organization of the town and further more it would establish a precedent by which other portions of the town might claim with equal or more reason to be set off." As usual Springfield had her own way. But there was no reason why she should want to lose her valuable suburb to the north, and no impassable barriers shut it off from the rest of the town. We like to cogitate on what it would have meant to North Springfield and the surrounding hillsides if the proposed change of boundary lines had been made.

No further attempt worthy of record has ever been made to enlarge Baltimore.



## VII. THE STORY OF BALTIMORE PEOPLE

## Ella Elizabeth Graves

Ella Elizabeth Graves was born in Baltimore, Vt., on what is known as the Davidson place. Her Grandma Graves was Dorcas Martin, one of the family of Martins, who lived in the west part of the town after Baltimore was set off from Cavendish in 1793. She was the only girl in a family of three children, the other two being Nelson and Otis. Nelson died when 14 years old of typhoid fever.

When Ella was ten years old, her parents moved to this farm which has since been known as the Graves place. She always attended the Baltimore school, her parents carrying her some during the summer, and winter times her brother drove a horse which they put up in Mr. Thos. Preston's barn. When about seven years old, she had a sickness which was called a "run of low fever" from which she recovered slowly.

In personal appearance she was the slender, precocious type. The writer remembers hearing Ella's father say once, "Give Ella the book and she could teach herself from it, but Otis had to be taught."

When in her teens she attended Kimball Union Academy and roomed with Josephine Mudgett who afterwards married Stephen W. Butterfield and became the mother of the five Butterfield boys. Ella must have been a high-ranking pupil. Her bright, intelligent mind, coupled with a pronounced tendency to do everything thoroughly and well, must have made her superior in scholarship. Like all other men in Baltimore her father held many town offices, and unlike other men in Baltimore he let his women folks do some of the writing. I often run across Ella's almost perfect Spencerian handwriting as I look through the records. The excellence of the English she used impressed me when quite young.

After her graduation she became a teacher. In those days the small children went to school in the summer, generally to a girl not much older than the oldest of her pupils and with no more "schooling" than what she had obtained in that very school. Let us not entertain any fears that they were not worthy of their hire.

I can find it on record that Ella Graves' mother, whose maiden name was Emily Gregory, taught school for \$8 a month and boarded herself. Ella was very highly educated for her times and was gifted with a powerful right arm and a disposition to use it. These three qualifications made her capable of teaching winter terms of school when the boys and girls in their late teens flocked in—the farm work not being so pressing at that season. Ella Graves could not be called a loving or a lovable teacher. My father used to say, "She was a strong rugged woman, nothing tender about her when it came to discipline. But she could work every last

example in the book and explain it so a feller could work another one like it. Anyway, women teachers were not expected to rule by love in those days."

When about twenty-five years old, Ella began to be afflicted with dyspepsia and was in very poor health for some time. In fact, she never fully recovered from a tendency to indigestion. In the Graves' kitchen they had a stove with an elevated oven at the back and on top of the stove, with the pipe running through the center. "Yankee Notion" was the name of it. Ella used to lean over this oven when her attacks were serious. I suppose the shape of the oven and the warmth it afforded her stomach probably did relieve her, but it seemed a strange method of treatment.

Ella and Mrs. Graves went out west, to what was considered the far West in those days—Wisconsin. Mrs. Graves' two brothers, Isaac and Newton, and Sister Harriet, all of whom grew up on the Sundgren place, had moved there, so Ella must have enjoyed meeting her cousins. They stayed about a month and Geo. Piper kept house during their absence. Ella had recovered her health somewhat and was able to resume teaching.

As I first remember Ella she was no longer teaching but went to Foxboro, Mass., winters where she worked in a hat factory sewing straw braid into hats. Once she brought me a navy blue straw hat, a sailor, with a white band and a bow of straw, "straw trimmed with straw," Ella said. It was not quite big enough for my head to suit Ella, but I was never more pleased with one.

She used to spend her summers at home where she was much company to her mother. She did not like house work but she was always doing something. She was an extremely neat person and had a way of locating dirt that was where it should not be, on a girl's bare feet or neck, for example.

In her later years she took up sewing. She used to go to homes and stay while she made dresses for the ladies. Her charges were reasonable and her work was very thoroughly done. In those days dresses were all seams and gores, and every seam was bound or overcast, and whale bone used to be sewed on the waist seams to keep them straight; it was quite a task to finish the inside of a dress when Ella used to sew. She used to receive a dollar a day for her services, including board.

In the winter of 1900 Ella was taken desperately ill at her work in Massachusetts—black diphtheria they called it. Her brother Otis had a serious run of the grippe, and before he recovered, his mother was stricken with pneumonia from which she did not recover. Otis stayed on the farm for several years and Ella lived with him most of the time, but finally they sold the place and Otis went west to live with the Gregory cousins. After spending some time with former friends, Ella decided to go where Otis was. She had no near relatives whatsoever in Vermont; so that seemed the natural course to take. She came to see me before leaving and asked if she might leave her melodeon with me. Her folks had



bought it for her when a young girl; but it seems she had no talent in music. She said if she never called for it, I could consider it my own. The keys were yellow and only one key would sound at all. Miss Graves declared that it was such a sham and a pretense she would not ask anyone with a small house to keep it. With its very beautiful rosewood case and harp-shaped ends, I have no furniture that I exhibit with so much pride as that.

After going to Wisconsin, Miss Graves spent one winter in Los Angeles. After her return she went to Madison Hospital where she suffered greatly from a cancer until the end came.

In her will she requested to be buried in the family lot in North Springfield; and after leaving \$1000 to the North Springfield Baptist Church to be known as the Emily Gregory Graves Fund and two minor bequests of \$100 each to friends, the residue which amounted to \$17,500 was left to Springfield Hospital to be used for the sick people of Baltimore.

These questions are often asked: why did she leave it to Baltimore, and how did she come by so much money?

To answer the first question, which is asked because Ella never seemed to like to live in Baltimore, I might say that she, her mother, and her brother were born and brought up in Baltimore. She was by nature a serious-minded person and inclined to be melancholy. I know she was inclined to be suspicious of anyone who might have designs on her property and certainly no one in Baltimore at that time could be classed in that category. Springfield people solicited funds from her to build the new hospital. It was one of Ella's traits to want people to do something towards earning what they got.

She did many things to enable me to get a higher education, especially by sewing for me. Once, after making me a beautiful pink chambray dress, mother told me to find out what she charged. I approached her in a businesslike manner, and she said I might go berrying with her out in the pine lot. Another time I undressed my feet and waded out into a swamp and gathered an armful of cattails in payment for help on some examples the teachers could not do. Springfield Hospital has received a goodly amount of money from the Baltimore Memorial Fund.

I have asked every one who knew the Graves family intimately how Ella came by so much money. The answer always is the same—she and the family saved it.

In searching the records we found the Graves farm was never mortgaged from 1793 when Baltimore records began until 1907. They all were strictly fair and honest in their dealings. I cannot recall a single instance of anyone doubting their honesty. They set a good table and treated their help so well it was called a good place to work; the same men helped them year after year in haying. But they were extremely saving of what they had and careful of what they bought.

Once a cousin, his wife and daughter were coming from Philadelphia. I think he was Luke Graves' son. The Graves seldom had company come to stay and I was all agog. Their best horse was all of twenty years old, a clumsy old farm horse. Ella did persuade Otis to buy a new harness, but it was a very cheap one according to my ideas, no nickel trimming on it at all. The women folks managed to get Otis to go and borrow Mr. Piper's covered carriage. Otis in much disgust told Mr. Piper of their extravagant request and added, "And I expect they'll want a spread eagle on the dashboard next." Ella thought they might use the best silver and told my father that her mother was reluctant to get it out, that the silverware was over forty years old and she had never used it but a few times. I stood around while Mrs. Graves made the company cake and marveled at the number of toothsome ingredients she used. It was named "Composition Cake". I saw the company and was greatly impressed by their grand clothes and aristocratic manners.

Mr. Piper told me that he brought Mrs. Graves to church the day she was baptized in the stream back of Mr. Patterson's barn. Ella Graves was baptized by Mr. Chipman but never joined the church. I never knew the reason and I heard Mr. Chipman tell my mother he did not know why she was so reluctant to join with God's people.

The Graves family deserves much appreciation from me, from my church, from my town. I think I must have been a nuisance to them with my chatter, questions, and inborn curiosity. I said as much to Ella when older grown, but she assured me that her mother enjoyed my company. I might have been a welcome caller in the dead of winter. I remember Mrs. Graves had a large goiter, a very placid disposition and a great habit of talking to herself, a woman of strong Christian character.

Ella was so interested in hearing me say the multiplication tables up to the sixes that I surprised her by saying them all up to the tens, the next time I went up to her house to borrow something. I won a \$5 gold piece coined the same year as my birth when in High School. When I graduated, I needed that five dollars desperately. So Ella gave me a \$5 bill for it and kept the gold piece until I taught school and redeemed it. Graduation gifts were practically unknown in my day; otherwise Ella might (?) have given me the five dollars.

Although the writing of this paper was prompted by gratitude for the bequests of the Graves family, I am glad to say I have enjoyed writing about this family because of my admiration for them and their inspiration to me.

*This paper was read before the Officers and Teachers Conference in North Springfield.*



## David R. Campbell

David Richard Campbell was born in the northern part of Rockingham near the town line of Springfield, April 25, 1794. He had four brothers and two sisters. He was the fourth child of his parents, David and Ammilla Campbell.

He lived on his father's farm and received a common education and was lucky enough to be able to go a few terms to Chester Academy. He also taught school several years. The last term he taught was in Bellows Falls. The previous teacher was not able to maintain discipline; so, knowing Mr. Campbell's abilities at teaching the school committee hired him. He restored peace in that school for the year 1823. After he had finished there, he went to work as a merchant in the country store of Hall and Goodrich located at Bellows Falls. A large portion of the trade was carried on by boat. The firm owned two boats which went from Bellows Falls to Hartford, Conn., by the Connecticut River. The firm dealt largely in the sale of wool. Later the men who owned the business went to Honolulu.

In 1832 Mr. Campbell went to Boston. He secured a job with Charles Valentine and Company which dealt largely in the sale of salted provisions. They had a large slaughter-house in Alton, Ill. In 1854 Mr. Campbell, having become wealthy, withdrew from the firm. He lived a retired life and never took an active part in business again.

In 1876 Mr. Campbell divided \$28,000 among six towns in Windsor County. Athens was given \$3,000; Grafton, Chester, Springfield, Westminster, and Windsor were given \$5,000 each, interest of which was to be used for the poor and paupers of each town. Later in 1885 five other towns were donated money. Rockingham, his birthplace, was given \$20,000. Four other towns in Windsor County were given the sum of \$20,000. Baltimore received \$4,000; Weathersfield and Hartland received \$5,000 each; and West Windsor received \$6,000. In each town the income was to be used for the poor and paupers. He also left about \$26,000 to his relatives.

Mr. Campbell never married; so he spent the remaining thirty-one years of his life at the home of his nephew, Hiram Harlow, in Windsor. He died February 19, 1885, at the age of ninety-two and was buried in the Colonel Hiram Harlow lot in Windsor. Mr. Campbell was a tall well-formed man with broad shoulders, a clean-shaven face, banged hair, and was very independent. Hiram Harlow was a former superintendent at the Windsor State Prison for seventeen years.

Here is an interesting story of Mr. Campbell: one time when he went to Mary Sturtevant, a tailoress, to have a coat made his bill was three and nine pence, but when he went to pay her she was not at home. Later, at about the same time, they both left town. She was married, had a son, and became a widow. During this time Mr. Campbell was going through a long process of becoming



wealthy. Years later in 1869 the tailoress received the money from him with interest. This money was given to the Consumptive's Home.

Another story which Miss Eva Baker of Springfield told me was that Mr. Campbell had heard that if you slept with a thimble under your pillow, you would never be struck by lightning; so he had a thimble made out of steel, only much larger than an ordinary one. He slept with the thimble under his pillow until he died. Miss Lucy Abbott of Springfield has the thimble.

Maybe you would be interested to know where I got my information. Some of my information I received from Mr. Walter Pollard, the town clerk of Baltimore. Also some from Mr. Arthur Pollard, the town clerk of Chester. I went to see Miss Alice Lawton of Chester, and she told me to see Miss Eva Baker of Springfield. She gave me some ideas and then told me to see Mrs. Walter Burr, also of Springfield. She gave me a scrapbook that had an article in it which told me almost all I wanted to know of Mr. Campbell.

### The Chaplin Family

While Baltimore was still a part of Cavendish, one Ezra Redfield purchased 55 acres in the very southeast corner of that town in the Governor's farm, so-called. By so doing he stole the march on Samuel Davis who purchased the remainder of the farm for 40 shillings.

In 1798 Salmon Dutton, tax collector of Cavendish, deeded Ezra Redfield 55 acres of land "said to be in Baltimore on the right of Benning Wentworth Esq. now occupied by the said Redfield." Salmon quit "all right title interest challenge and claim" he had in the land for the sum of one dollar. Evidently there had been a vendue sale for taxes. Ezra, a relative of Everett Redfield, was selected one of the school committee for the South District in 1795, also constable. In 1796 he was re-elected for constable and voted grand-jury man. In 1797 he was one of the committee to draw the lines between the two school districts, a delicate undertaking. In 1798 Ezra was voted second selectman and surveyor of highways.

Possibly Ezra did not care for so much official duty, for in April 1799 "in the 23 year of the Independence of the United States" he sold the 55 acres to Amos Lockwood for 130 pounds legal money, a good deal for Ezra. In 1801 Lockwood sold this same tract to David Chaplin of Springfield for \$432.34, a poor deal for Amos. On the same day David sold 20 acres from the south side to David Jr., a strip extending the whole length of the farm on the Chester line and wide enough to contain 20 acres or about 29 (plus) rods wide.

Then the Chaplins proceeded to divide up the land similar to a jig saw puzzle (which still has one piece missing). It appears that David had two sons, David Jr. and James. After selling the 20 acres to David Jr., he sold the 35 acres to James, also his "personal



estate of every kind, name or nature excepting house-hold furniture," for \$350. This indenture was in the form of a life lease as David Sr. was to have and to hold the above-granted and bargained and landlet premises clear through his natural life. "Be it remembered and forever understood that the said David Chaplin is not to come into possession so long as I, the said James Chaplin continue to fulfill a bond for the maintenance of the said David Chaplin and Prudence his wife and Molly Chaplin the said David's mother."

This contract evidently did not prove sufficiently binding. In June of the very next year 1805, son James signs another deed made more specific by stating therein that he is "holden and firmly bound to well and truly maintain, or cause to be maintained in a decent manner David Chaplin and Prudence Chaplin his wife and Molly Chaplin, mother of said David through their natural lives to provide all the common necessities of life, both in sickness and in health, all and clear through each one of their natural lives."

Nothing appears on the records of 1806 about this deal; so possibly peace and harmony reigned. In July 1807 David deeded his 35 acres to James again with no mention of an encumbrance (or three of them). What might be about to happen? Just this—on September 6, 1808, David Chaplin did "remise, release and forever quit claim unto James Chaplin, his heirs and assigns all manner of actions, cause of actions, suits, bills, bonds, writings obligations, debts, dues, duties, reckonings, accounts, sum or sums of money, judgments, executions, quarrels, controversies, trespass, damages and demands both in law and equity, excepting a life lease which the said James has this day executed to me the said David and Prudence, my wife, which against him the said James I ever had or now have." We note that Molly's name no longer appears. She had probably passed on. All this "remising, releasing and quitting" ought to bring about perfect reconciliation.

The next record is an indenture wherein James grants, bargains, and farmlets to the said David Chaplin during his natural life, also to Prudence, a strip of land off the north side of the farm  $17\frac{1}{2}$  rods wide and 110 rods long, also "sufficient barn room in the barn that I the said James now own standing near the south line of the above described land to stable two cows and put in fodder for the same and also put in all the inglish grane" that shall be raised on the above land, with the privilege of the barn floor to thresh and clean up the same (a necessary convenience in those days), also the privilege of gathering and taking the apples from 20 trees in the orchard (here certain trees were specified for the use of David). James agreed to warrant, secure and defend all the aforesaid premises, barn, and apple trees to David and Prudence his wife—and he did. The barn and apple trees were in the field directly below the sugar-house lot.

Quite early in the game David Jr. had sold the eastern end of the 20 acre strip to James; so the latter owned all land east of the road at one time. In 1809 James proceeded to sell his remaining real



estate in Baltimore. He sold his brother David Jr. the strip between what his father and mother had off the north end as a life lease and the strip David Jr. had left of the original 20 acres off the south end. In this conveyance no mention is made of any buildings. David Jr. paid \$240 for it, and now owned all the land west of the road except his father's right by way of lease. That same day he sold to Daniel Griswold that part of the Governor's farm, so-called, bounded as follows—"Beginning at a stake and stones standing in the line between Chester and Baltimore on the Easterly side of the now travelled road then running Easterly on the town line to a *beech* tree which is said to be the corner bound of Chester, Baltimore, and Weathersfield." (Did the beech grow into the tall sweeping elm that is now the corner bound?) James deeded to within  $17\frac{1}{2}$  rods of his northeast corner, reserving the use of the barn and apple trees on this land for his parents as per agreement. In December 1809 he deeded his right in the land on which his parents held the life lease to Joshua Martin 3rd. who married Lucy Chaplin, James' sister.

No more does the name of James Chaplin appear on the records. We do not know whether he was ever married or not. In his various land transactions no woman's name appears with his on the deeds. Possibly we cannot lay the blame for the domestic infelicity on James' frivolous young wife. Possibly a house divided between two mothers-in-law and a wife could not be shared. Probably trouble arose because the agreements were not carefully drawn, not enough of stipulation. We smile at the records wherein some of the forefathers specified even the brands of tea to be furnished them, possibly it was not altogether unwise.

James never held but one town office, that of hayward in 1808, which is undeniable proof that he actually resided in town.

And what had become of brother David Jr. during these years? He it was who furnished the town clerk with many papers to record as he purchased adjoining tracts of land, which finally added together resulted in a well-balanced farm.

In 1802 he bought the 20 acres from his father in April. In November 1802 for \$187.50 he bought the pasture in the corner where the "old road" meets the main highway containing almost 19 acres from Francis Burnam, the barn thereon being reserved by Burnam, also 32 square rods of land around it.

In 1804 David Jr. bought the barn and plot of land for \$141.66. It was on this corner of land that David Jr. built his first house, probably using the Burnam barn. The cellar hole of the house still remains in good condition. The road commissioner in 1939 gained permission to draw stones for highway construction from what he supposed was a big stone heap. It proved to be the above-mentioned cellar hole which had been used as a dumping place for rocks until heaping full. The remnants of the family orchard can still be found near the cellar. Mrs. Raymenton, David's great-granddaughter, remembers picking raspberries near it with her grandmother Litch.



In 1814 he bought two more acres from the Burnams adjoining what he had already bought, and in 1817 David Jr. secured the rest of what the Burnams owned on the east side of the old road, 14 acres for \$203.44. That made four deeds to record and \$562.60 spent for 35 acres of land and a barn.

We recall that James Chaplin sold all the land on the east side of the road in 1809 to Daniel Griswold, reserving the barn and apple trees. In 1813 Griswold sold David Jr. a three-cornered piece of land containing one acre 56 rods on the *north* side of the road *near* the *old barn*, which is now the lot where the sugar house stands. December 27, 1821 Griswold deeded 10 acres more to David Jr. adjoining the above-mentioned three-cornered piece.

In the boundary lines we find these words, "then south eighty degrees west sixty rods to a stake and stones on easterly side of road, then north twenty seven degrees west along the easterly side of road 15 rods to a stake and stones near said James Chaplin's house." The house was probably located near the first barway on the east below the sugar house. This constituted set of buildings number one, and were probably the buildings occupied by Ezra Redfield and his family of seven in 1800. These buildings are referred to in the records as the *old barn* and again as the *old house*. By the use of that definite article *the* together with the word *old* we may be right in thinking there was also a new house on the place. There still remain beside the road not many rods north of the present barn, a sill, a bed of old-fashioned yet beautiful roses, and one side of a cellar wall, unmistakable signs of a onetime habitation. Possibly James lived in the old house and his parents built house number two for themselves and later their daughter and husband. It would be on the strip of land on which they held a life lease. The buildings on the Burnam land in what is now the corner pasture were set number three. David Jr. built set number four where the buildings are now located, moving some of the buildings down from the Burnam lot. That house burned in 1904 and was rebuilt the following spring. Only one of the old barns remains, a new barn and stable having been built; so practically all the buildings of the set number five are new.

In 1804 David Jr. had bought what is now the Hammond's wood lot, 15 acres from Levi Davis for \$150, located across the valley on top of the hill in front of the house. This furnishes the wood lot for the farm "unto this day."

In all these land transactions David Jr. was accumulating rather than speculating. The Burnams were poor people, but it is not evident that David Jr. took advantage of their straits. He was ready to buy and pay a good price as they were obliged to part with their property from time to time. He and his wife must have been industrious and thrifty to wrest a living from an acreage small at first yet ever increasing. In no instance was a mortgage recorded on their purchases.

One piece was missing from this jig saw puzzle for a space of 50 years, the field in the corner where the elm tree stands that is the



“corner bound.” That piece of land was never regained by a Chaplin. It passed from Daniel Griswold to Daniel Griswold Jr.; he sold to Lucius Griswold, who sold it to Joel Woodbury, owner of the Bibens’ farm in 1859.

The field was regarded as part of the homestead place evidently, as Joel’s wife Elizabeth signed with him when in 1859 he sold it to Lyman Litch who had married Prudence Chaplin.

And another strip is still missing—Joshua Martin 3rd. did not sell that strip 17½ rod wide on which David Sr. and Prudence held a life lease until 1848 when it was conveyed to Lewis Bemis. He in turn sold the same land “said to be ten acres” to Daniel Chittenden. In recent years Henry Hammond bought the five acres bordering the highway, but the lower five acres bordering Weathersfield line is still needed to complete the original tract of 55 acres.

March 23, 1833, David Chaplin Jr. sold his son Matthew one undivided half of all the land he owned in Baltimore together with one-half of all the buildings and privileges and appurtenances for \$800. April 6, 1833, son Matthew also bought the Glynn place from Joseph Atherton. The next April, 1834, Matthew sold all the land he owned to Socrates Hastings. Probably David, the father, did not like this arrangement, and on June 25 of that year he bought from said Socrates all the land Matthew had deeded him.

In 1834 David sold again to son Matthew who gave David and Lydia a bond in the penal sum of \$2000 “and shall during the natural lives of David and Lydia provide and furnish for them at all times in sickness and infirmity, suitable nursing, doctoring, washing and attendance, suitable house room and firewood well cut, and split and fitted for the stove or fireplace as the case may be, provide and keep for their use a suitable horse, wagon, sleigh, harness, also a good cow, also each year ten dollars in money, 250 lbs. good pork, 100 lbs. good beef, 15 bus. of corn and rye, 3 lbs. souchong tea, two pounds Hyson tea, 20 bus. potatoes, 10 lbs. good sugar, 3 gals. molasses, pepper, spice, and saleratus, 12 lbs. good wool, 12 lbs. flax, 20 yds. good cotton cloth, 3 bus. good wheat or ½ barrel good flour (*it appears they wanted everything to be good*) 9 lbs. tallow, necessary and suitable boots and shoes, provide a suitable garden in a convenient spot, comfortable supply of apples and cider, all the salt they may need, pay for carding their wool and dressing their cloth. If Matthew shall fully do and perform all the above named services then this deed to be null and void.” Speaking of a stipulation, this might have been a case of too much of a good thing.

On October 18, 1836, Matthew deeded it all back to his father David, and his name appears only once more on the Baltimore records, in David’s will.

On June 13, 1840, David “being in a very infirm state of health sensible too of my liableness to sudden death—I do hereby make my last will and testament”. After providing for the payment of his just debts he gives, devises and disposes of the remainder of his



estate as follows: "I give to my son Matthew and to his heirs and assigns two dollars. I give Prudence and to her heirs and assigns two dollars. I give to my beloved wife Lydia during her life the use of the remainder of my estate both real and personal. I also give to my daughter Prudence and to her heirs and assigns at the death of my beloved wife Lydia all the residue and remainder of all my estate not herein otherwise disposed of." David Jr. lived two years and was tenderly cared for by his daughter, Prudence Chaplin Litch.

Mrs. Raymenton relates that her great-grandmother Chaplin once planted an apple tree near the corner of house number 3 facing the road. It was grafted until five different varieties of apples grew upon it. Grandma Chaplin lived to see her great-grandchildren enjoy the fruit from this tree.

It is interesting to note that no family on the Hammond farm has ever had a large number of children, but it has often been the home of old people in their last years. There were David and Prudence and Molly, David's mother, in the very first Chaplin home as will be recalled. Phebe Gates, a pauper, who lived to be very old, died in the Chaplin home in 1831. David Jr. and Lydia cared for Sarah Pierce Hedson, Lydia's sister in her declining years. Abner Field settled her estate which amounted to \$205.39. There were two notes amounting to \$150.00 and personal property for the rest. It is interesting to read the original copy of the appraisal; bandboxes, combs, and articles of underwear even were appraised in the list which Miss Bertha Field still keeps. Sarah's will was in favor of Lydia. David and Lydia were cared for by their daughter Prudence Litch. Grandma Litch came to the Chaplin home in her old age. Mrs. Raymenton remembers her two great-grandmothers, each in her comb-backed rocker. Then there were Prudence and Lyman Litch and recently Mr. Foster Hammond. Surely the place has been a "Home for the Aged."

#### Chaplin Genealogy

David Sr. Married Prudence

His mother's name was Molly

Their children:

James—

David, Jr.—b. 1779; d. July 27, 1842; m. Lydia Pierce—b. Apr. 12, 1782 in Ashburnham. Parents were Matthew and Sally Pierce; d. Aug. 29, 1867 of consumption.

Lucy—m. Joshua Martin 3rd.

Children of David, Jr. and Lydia:

Prudence—b. July 1808; d. Nov. 7, 1893; m. Lyman Litch—b. 1803; d. Jan. 7, 1894; age 90 yrs. 8 mos.

Matthew—m. Lorinda Howe. Lived first in Baltimore, settled in Montpelier.

Children of Matthew—Louise M. Ewers, Lucia M. Cross.

Children of Lucia—Charles Cross, Boston, and Carrie Cross, Montpelier.

Children of Prudence—Betsy, b. Feb. 5, 1832; d. Aug. 25, 1896; m. Seaman Ward—Lydia, b. Sept. 21, 1840; d. June 14, 1873 of consumption; m. F. H. Hodgeman—Emily, b. Aug. 13, 1838; d. Sept. 22, 1840—Mary, b. Oct. 29, 1842; d. Mar. 17, 1854.

Great-grandchildren of David, Jr.:

Fannie A., b. Sept. 26, 1859; m. Raymenton 1890—Nellie E., b. Dec. 17, 1861; d. May 12, 1906; m. Chas. Whitcomb—Charles L., b. Aug. 4, 1857; d. Aug. 10, 1926; m. 1881 Mary Piper, b. Sept. 28, 1851—Marion, b. Jan. 31, 1891; m. 1931 to Callahan,—Ralph Piper Ward, b. Oct. 21, 1883.

### Levi Davis Family

When Samuel Davis, Gent., obtained a full title to the "Governor's farm so called" for 40 shillings, he straightway deeded two sizable portions to his sons Samuel and Levi, the latter choosing 100 acres on the Weathersfield line. Probably if Ezra Redfield had not already obtained a deed to the 55 acres in the very southeast corner, Levi would have had 150 acres more or less as did brother Samuel. Perhaps that may explain why the very day Samuel of Windham deeded to Samuel of Baltimore his 155 acres, the latter deeded back the 55 acres which now constitute the Baltimore mowings on the Pollard farm. No partiality shown.

Levi's farm would have been hilly for the most part, but it had a sunny exposure, was well-watered with some fertile, fairly level fields. It comprised what is now the big Pollard pasture, being a 20 acre strip north and adjoining that and all the land between said pasture and the town line now owned by Dan Davis and Henry Hammond.

Levi obtained his deed in 1795, but he was living here in 1794 when the town was divided into school districts. The next year 1795 he was elected one of the three listers, also for the following year. In 1799 he was elected "tyding man", in 1800 highway surveyor for "South Destrect."

In 1800 the selectmen laid out a road that might have materially affected the Levi Davis homestead and added to its permanency. The year before they had employed the county surveyor to come and survey the road they had previously laid out beginning at Levi Davis' southeast corner 80 rods north from the "corner bound" of the four towns. This next year the selectmen laid out a road "beginning at an old basswood stump on the road leading from James Chittenden's to Francis Burnam's (*probably the road above mentioned A. M. P.*) then running north four degrees east (*quite a turn A. M. P.*) eighteen rods nearly to Levi Davis' dwelling house, then north twenty three degrees west sixty rods, then north 36 degrees thirty four rods to the road near the house formerly occupied by Daniel Farr" (*near the bridge on the old road A. M. P.*).

Now where was that old basswood stump? It is evident this road did not follow the brook as it was too deviating in its course.



Nobody as yet has discovered the site of the Levi Davis' habitation. Perhaps Levi decided he had better be more zealous in attending town meetings if he wanted a road. In 1801 he was present and was elected lister, constable and collector, fence-viewer. And the town voted to accept the road from Levi Davis to Wm. Wilder (or Farr) as surveyed.

Levi continued as constable and collector, was one of the twelve that brought in their votes at Freeman's meeting in Feb. 1803 to elect a Representative to Congress. In 1803 Capt. Levi Davis was elected pound-keeper; in 1806 he was a fence-viewer. After that his name appears no more as an office holder.

Tradition tells us that a mighty effort was made once to extend the road into Baltimore by the Chittenden place and up the brook rather than along the ridge by what is now the Bibens place. Had the idea prevailed that the road be extended up the valley, the Bibens place and possibly the Allen farm would have been at the end of a lane. It is reported that the owner of said Bibens farm had more influence on the powers that were than did the valley faction.

At the town meeting in 1807 they voted Jona. Boynton and Joseph Atherton a committee to assist the selectmen to alter the road leading from Weathersfield line by Wm. Chittenden's to the road leading by David Chaplin's. That was in March, and in May of that year 1807 they met and voted to discontinue the road altogether "during the pleasure of the town." Evidently the town is still pleased to dispense with said road.

In the 1800 census Levi Davis is listed as having three boys and one girl under ten years, a female, perhaps his wife Abigail, between 16-26 and a male and a female between 26-45. So it was a family of young folks that dwelt for several years on the eastern side of the Governor's farm, so-called. Some if not all the four children were probably born in that dwelling house of short duration.

Something discouraged them evidently. In 1803 Levi sold a strip 32 rods wide from the northern end of this farm to Benj. Page for \$125; the western part of this strip is now the wood lot on the Erwin Converse place. In 1806 he and Abigail sold the parcel of land 15 acres bordering on the town line now the Hammond wood lot. In Sept. 1806 he sold the tract of land directly west of the Hammond wood lot to Samuel Lockwood 25 acres for \$250. On the same day he sold to Reuben Bemis and Jona. Woodbury the remaining 55 acres more or less, being the south end of the Pollard pasture and the land east of it to the town line, for \$547.05. Levi, therefore, sold out for \$1072.05 making \$822.05 on his deal. Probably that was reason enough for his selling, but we like to picture in our mind's eye this homestead with its large family on the hillside, or was it near the brook? Purposely the writer has copied in full the survey of the road leading nearly to Levi's dwelling in hopes that some living generous surveyor of the present day will be moved to locate the site of this habitation.



William Davis Family  
*Walter Pollard Farm*

When Baltimore was organized Mar. 12, 1794, Isaac Chamberlin was living on this farm. He was the first man in Baltimore to be elected to town office, serving as moderator of that first town meeting. At the next two annual meetings he was elected moderator and selectman, was also elected in 1796 to serve on committee to agree with Mr. Houghton for two acres of land (for a schoolhouse) and to divide it into three shares for chopping. In 1797 he was on the committee to annex the northeast corner of Chester to Baltimore. Both these projects failed to materialize, but let us not lay the blame on Isaac.

He continued as moderator and selectman until 1801 when the office of pound-keeper fell to his lot. That was a more important office then than now; when the only means of restraining cattle, horses, sheep and swine was by building stone walls or brush fences, there were often good reasons for animals going astray. He was the first justice of the peace and for several years appears to have been the only one.

In 1800 Isaac Chamberlin of Baltimore married Molly Gannet, according to Springfield records.

Nov. 3, 1801, he sold Daniel Smith all the land on both sides of the road from Chester line to the road above the present buildings, about 50 acres, for \$200. Daniel Smith lived on the premises a short time as he was elected pound-keeper in 1802, his barn to be the pound.

In May 1802 Daniel Smith sold to Elijah Hildreth the house-side of road for \$300, about 25 acres, but on Oct. 19, 1802, Hildreth sold it back to Smith. The day before, Oct. 18, Samuel Davis had sold this same piece of land to Amos Lockwood. It will be remembered Samuel had bought all the Governor's farm except the Ezra Redfield place for 40 shillings. He gave Amos a straight warranty deed which evidently held in spite of Daniel Smith's claims.

Oct. 11, 1803, Amos Lockwood sold the house-side of road to William Davis of Royalston, Mass., 25 acres for \$200. Nov. 14, 1803, Samuel and Levi Davis sold the other side of road, 30 acres, to William Davis for \$300. These may have been the sons and heirs of Samuel Davis Sr., otherwise it is not clear how Levi Davis came into possession of this land. There were two Samuel Davises as shown by the records; and, as it happened, they were no relation to William and Parkman Davis.

With the exception of possibly Isaac Chamberlin, the other owners were speculators, and it was fortunate indeed for the land involved and the future of the town when young William Davis purchased it. Probably the house in which Isaac Chamberlin lived was of flimsy construction, possibly a log cabin. It is thought William Davis proceeded to build the first frame house; and in Jan. 1807 he had it ready for his bride, Miss Phebe Sanders, of Templeton, Mass. That house in which all their eleven children



were born is still standing, though abandoned as a home in 1827. Evidently what was the main part was moved to its present location very close to the highway. It is thought that it was connected with the building that now serves as shop and woodshed for the present owner. A cellar was discovered under what is now the shop, and the partially plastered walls would indicate that that room was probably the kitchen.

When Abigail Davis Haskell was over ninety years old, she was on several occasions a most welcome visitor at the place of her birth. In spite of her years she never failed to make the trip up into the shed chambers, remarking as she did so upon how she had helped many times to make the beds for her eight brothers who slept in that open chamber. In winter time snow often sifted in through the cracks and lay in little mounds on beds and floor.

Her tenderest recollections were for the old house and she could recall the various articles that her mother kept on each shelf. As one of the three girls in a family of eleven children, she probably had had experience in dishwashing. This old house was not dilapidated when it was abandoned, but it must have been greatly outgrown. That it was well-built is undeniable. Its split laths and all its big timbers projecting into the room are well-encased, and some plaster and paint still clinging to the walls bear out this statement. All the repairs it has ever known has been an occasional new roof.

William did not strive to be a big land owner. In 1811 he bought two pieces of lease land in Chester, and in 1818 he gained possession of one more piece. This probably afforded him pasturage and woodland. In 1826 he increased his 55 acres of Baltimore land to 94 acres by purchasing 39 acres of pasture land for \$489, an exorbitant figure. This pasture was the further end of the present cow pasture, most of it lying across the "old road" brook. In 1854 he bought the corner pasture which Deliverance Burnam sold to Amasa Gregory in the corner between the old road and the main highway 28½ acres for \$353.52.

Possibly the land which William selected for a farm was less inclined to irreclaimable wastes and rocks than some sections of Baltimore. There can be no doubt as to his being a good farmer. To this day it is related that when he went forth with his ox team to plough, his sons lined up in the freshly made furrows to wrest the stones from their dwelling places since the creation of the world, lifting them to the surface and sunlight whence they were drawn away to convenient places for wall building.

Mrs. Haskell told how her father used to look out over the field across from the house and remark "I've taken many a dollar out of that lot." As a child she believed it to be literally true and used to look to see if she herself could not pick up some dollars thereabouts. When a little older she learned he referred to the immense crops of potatoes he had raised there, possibly for starch factories then quite numerous in this locality.

William and Phebe's grandest achievement was to raise eleven children to be useful, progressive citizens. Perhaps the next best monument to their ambition, skill and enterprise was the house which was completed in 1827. In 1902, just previous to the writer's coming into it as a bride, Ella Graves congratulated her on having such a good old house for her future home. She stated then that it was so commodious, and such good material and skilled workmanship went into its construction that it was the pride of the community when first built. In those days houses were appraised separately from the land, and this house was listed for \$437.00; the next best house in Baltimore was valued at \$300 and was owned by Earle Woodbury.

It had all the old-fashioned features, at least six fireplaces, a brick oven, fireplace and arch ensemble in the kitchen, chair railings, homemade door latches, some H. L. hinges. The roof-tree consists of one hewed timber thirty-six feet long, all in one piece with its wooden pins plainly in evidence.

The main part has two stories with two rooms downstairs and two chambers, each room being 15 feet square, besides a hall in the middle of the house and a dark room downstairs and one upstairs back of the hall. The hall has a winding staircase with two turns in it, with handmade banisters and square posts. Handmade mouldings outlined all the casings in the hall and the best room or "parlor."

In the ell, besides the kitchen which rambled around on three sides of the brick oven, were a milkroom with its rack for pans, a "buttery," a small bedroom, large dining-room and an entry. Upstairs were two chambers with plenty of space at the head of the stairs to make another room. Here cheaper methods of construction were used, the doors being two wide boards nailed to two cross pieces. And speaking of cupboards and closets, which could not have been numerous in the little old house, this new one boasted fifteen full-sized cupboards and closets, not counting the three little ones tucked in around the brick oven. Strange to relate, each cupboard and closet has and probably always has had its own particular use, much to the retardation of the housewife when spring cleaning comes.

William Davis was not only industrious and thrifty, he was also extremely temperate for his day. The story has been handed down that, when he was about to raise a building, he invited the neighbors to come to his place on a certain day to help and stated that he would not serve any alcoholic liquors, but that there would be plenty of food. This was contrary to custom, and Wm. Davis went down in history as the first man in this locality who had a "raising" without serving rum. It so happened that there was a funeral near by that day and one of the town's men said, "We read in the Bible that it is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting. I am going to the funeral."

William and Phebe were members of the Congregational Church in Springfield. He was a deacon and drove nearly six miles to



church every Sunday, rain or shine. It is remembered that he always drove a span of spirited horses. It can be readily seen that the Davis children had a goodly heritage, and they surely profited thereby.

William was also duly interested in the town's affairs. At first he held minor offices such as pound-keeper, fence-viewer and highway surveyor for the South District. He was present and voting at the Freeman's meeting in 1824 when Baltimore sent its first representative to the legislature. In 1833 he was elected selectman and served in that capacity for 12 years in succession. He was also grand juror for the town for many years.

In those days incompatibility of town offices was unheard of, and one year William served as overseer of the poor, highway surveyor, trustee and grand juror besides being selectman. In the school meeting of the South District he played a very prominent part generally serving as "commetty man," later spelled "committy"; once he was clerk of the district; so that year's record gives us a specimen of William's bold handwriting with its shading and flourishes.

William represented Baltimore in the legislature in the years 1841-2 and again in 1848 and 1857, four sessions in all and more than any other man.

In one of her visits Mrs. Haskell entered the north chamber in the main part and told us that about as soon as the house was built they failed to have a winter school in the South District. Her father hired a teacher and had a school for his own children in that very room. A study of the school records shows the district had no school in 1828. Baxter Burrows was the teacher employed. William and Phebe's children had educational advantages near at home.

That winter they did not need the warm red caps their mother knit for them in such numbers that they were called "the red headed woodpeckers." And Phebe did not get that yarn by passing a few dimes over a counter. Possibly the knitting was the easiest part of the task for that busy mother. And busy she must have been. The genealogical record shows she gave birth to eleven babies in less than sixteen years and raised them all to adulthood. She lived in her new house twenty-two years, dying the day after her forty-second wedding anniversary, Jan. 27, 1849.

William married Mrs. Sarah Lovejoy of Weston for his second wife in 1851. Because the writer fully approves of his marriage contract and because it is the only instance of such an agreement appearing on the records, a copy of the contract follows:

*Weston December 9th 1851*

*Marriage Contract between Dea. William Davis of Baltimore, Vt. and widow Sarah Lovejoy of this town.*

*In view of the marriage which is this day to unite us I William Davis hereby obligate myself to support her and her daughter Lydia Lovejoy till she is eighteen years of age without requiring the use of her*

property and in case she should out live me I promise her the said Sarah Lovejoy three hundred dollars out of my estate and in case I should suffer protracted sickness before my decease another hundred dollars in addition to the above.

William Davis

This certifies that I am satisfied with the above contract.

Sarah Lovejoy

Attest—John Walker and Arathusa Walker

This certifies that Dea. William Davis of Baltimore, Vt. and Widow Sarah Lovejoy of the town were united in marriage this 9th day of December A. D. 1851.

By me, John Walker

Minister of the Gospel

Thus were the property rights of Phebe’s children protected. Lydia Lovejoy became a pupil in the Baltimore school in due season. It is possible William did not suffer from a protracted illness as he died of dropsy of the heart Sept. 16, 1858, in Baltimore, Vt.

Genealogy of Wm. Davis Family.

William Davis b. April 15, 1779, m. Phebe Sanders Jan. 26, 1807. She died Jan. 27, 1849. Wm. Davis died Sept. 16, 1858. Children of William and Phebe Sanders Davis all born in Baltimore, Vt.:

	Born	died	married
William Jr.	Oct. 26, 1807	Feb. 7, 1835	
Ira	Feb. 17, 1809	Oct. 29, 1888	Lucia Lovell
Luke	Sept. 6, 1810	Mar. 22, 1855	Harriet Davis
Isaac	Mar. 10, 1812	Sept. 9, 1892	Mary Crain
George	Aug. 17, 1813	Feb. 7, 1887	Lucia Woodward
Phebe	Mar. 25, 1815	Apr. 6, 1876	Jarius Whitcomb
Nelson	Jan. 9, 1817	Nov. 30, 1893	Sarah Cutler
Lewis	June 20, 1818	Aug. 31, 1892	Mary Bradford
Abigail	Jan. 17, 1820	Jan. 11, 1921	Solon Barnard
Albert	July 27, 1821	Nov. 3, 1892	Cordelia Leland
Eliza	Apr. 6, 1823	July 26, 1853	

Abigail married the second time (?) Haskell

Occupations of William and Phebe Davis’ children:

William Jr. lived at home with parents, unmarried, died at the age of 28. Isaac was one of the pioneers in manufacturing in Springfield, Vt., engaged in the manufacture of shoe pegs with his brother Ira about 1835 on the ground later occupied by Gilman and Townsend. The last thirty-two years of his life he was a successful farmer on the farm now occupied by A. Glenn Woolson—Old Colonial Farm, Springfield, Vt. Ira learned the wagon maker’s trade in Dorset, Vt., and later was interested in the manufacture of shoe pegs with his brother Isaac. George—a farmer in Baltimore; Phebe—married a farmer in Springfield, Vt. Lewis, a shoemaker by trade; later in life he followed various occupations. At one time he was school superintendent living at N. Springfield.



Abigail—milliner by trade, married a farmer.

Albert—a successful farmer in Weathersfield, Vt.

Luke—farmer in Newport, Vt.

Nelson—engaged in lumber and grain business in Newport, Vt.

In the treasurer's book we find this entry: "Sept. 10, 1846 paid Eliza Davis the sum of twelve dollars for teaching school three months. Boarded at Fox Sherwin's 11 wks. for \$11.88." A possible explanation of Eliza's boarding at Fox Sherwin's might be that she was not able to stand the walk of one and one-half miles from home after the first week. It will be observed that the town paid \$1.08 a week for her board, which was eight cents more than they paid for her teaching. This became a common practice. Albert Davis, Mrs. Alice D. Lawton's father, was prudential committee at this time.

### George Davis Family

Dec. 24, 1857, William and Sally Davis sold the farm to his son, George Davis of Haverhill, N. H., for \$3500. George gave his father a mortgage on the farm for the full amount of \$3500 which he agreed to pay within five years from April 1st. of the next year. He also agreed not to sell or convey said farm during the life of said William without the consent of said William. The next year June 29, 1858, William assigned the mortgage to his son, Isaac Davis of Springfield. Isaac discharged the same Sept. 15, 1862; so George was safe and secure in his possessions we expect.

When George and Lucia Davis came to Baltimore, they were no longer young, George being 43, Lucia 37. But they were in no sense aged or decrepit. The barns previously had stood on the level ground south of the hollow almost directly in front of the house. He it was who moved them so as to take advantage of the hollow for a basement, stable, etc. He also made the first box stalls in his barns which were considered quite an innovation.

Lucia made herself unpopular with her in-laws when she chose to remodel the house that was still the pride and joy of the Wm. Davis children. Lucia was self-assertive, energetic, and a believer in women's rights. She removed three of the fireplaces, joined the little bedroom downstairs with the dark room, thus making a fair-sized convenient bedroom. Truth to tell, the writer heartily commends Lucia for the change she made.

She left the brick oven as it was and used it at times for her Saturday baking. She thought beans and brown bread were much improved by that process of baking, also had a brass kettle and used it on the arch on wash days. Lucia also left the dark chamber upstairs unchanged believing that room to be the safer depository for woollens in the summer time.

It is true, however, that her changes did not meet with the approval of her husband's brothers and sisters. On one occasion some of William's descendants were taking pictures of the house. "Just take the main part of the house that is as your grandfather built

it. We don't want a picture of the ell that Lucia spoiled", were the orders given the young man with the camera.

The writer must plead guilty to further spoilage as she it was who planned the removal of the brick oven and all its appendages. An overgrown kitchen built around three sides of a brick oven held no charms for her. But perhaps there is no one living who can more properly state than the writer can that if Lucia Davis and Annie Pollard had been contented to leave the substantial old house as William and Phebe planned and built it, that brick oven without a break in it would command good money now.

Mrs. George Davis took much pride in appearances. She and her husband were members and regular attendants of the Universalist Church in Springfield. This story has been told how at one time their carriage became a little shabby. On no account would she take the main road to Springfield but went down by the cemetery and then along the back road to church.

Lucia's monument to her memory was a wonderful flower garden. That is the one thing she created which every one remembering her always mentions. Daffodils, lilies of the valley, roses, all the hardy shrubs grew apace under her loving care. And some of them are still growing and blooming. It would be difficult to estimate the hearts that have been cheered, the homes that have been beautified by flowers and roots from Lucia Davis' garden since her passing over a half century ago.

A shade of sadness comes into the picture as we record the genealogy of George and Lucia Davis. None of their children was born in Baltimore, but three of them died here; two little gravestones for Princess Ann and Freddie were left in the old cornbarn, the figure of a rose bud falling from the stem being carved on the Princess' stone. These gravestones had been replaced by a monument in North Springfield cemetery.

Geo. died Feb. 7, 1887, of typhoid pneumonia, age 73 yrs. 5 mos. 20 das. Lucia died Feb. 20, 1887, of inflammation of the bowels, age 67 yrs. 1 mo. 16 das. Almon Davis and George Woodward Davis were administrators of the estate. They sold the farm to Brown and Lovell of Springfield who cut off the timber and wood at much profit. They are about ready to cut the then beautiful thrifty maples which border the highway leading to the main road. Fortunately, they were persuaded, partly through Fred G. Field, to leave them for other generations to admire and enjoy.

#### Genealogy

George Davis      m. July 25, 1839      Lucia Woodard

#### Their Children

Ann P. Davis, born Oct. 24, 1840; died May 23, 1858 of consumption.

George Woodward Davis, born June 17, 1842; married first Wealthy Holt Oct. 29, 1867; married second Lucia A. Read Feb. 24, 1880. Geo. W. killed by lightning May 14, 1890. He was



standing in his own barn in Claremont, N. H. His widow married Wm. W. Ballock of Cornish, N. H.

#### Children of Geo. W. and Lucia Davis

A baby girl born July 20, 1885, died July 30, 1885.

Fred Davis born April 20, 1888. Educated in Windsor High School, class of 1906. Unmarried. Operating his mother's farm in Cornish, N. H. Mrs. Ballock came once with her son Fred, Frank Davis's widow and her son to see her first home with her first husband, Geo. W. Davis. On entering the further chamber she was tearful as she remarked that it was in that room she and her young husband began housekeeping.

Abbie S., born Sept. 17, 1845, in Derby Vt.; married Putnam Thompson, Dec. 4, 1866, and lived on the Glenn Olney farm. She died Jan. 28, 1875, of consumption. Her husband died that same year Dec. 5, 1875.

#### Their Children

Carrie Thompson, born Mar. 31, 1870; died Nov. 24, 1903; married Albert Ferris, Oct. 25, 1893.

Frank, born Sept. 9, 1873; died May 22, 1917, of tuberculosis. He married first Mary Leach, Oct. 31, 1894. They had one child Ruth born Sept. 4, 1896. Frank married second Florence Cone Dunham. One child Earl born May 10, 1912. Abbie's children lived in Baltimore with their grandparents until their death in 1887. Frank was legally adopted by his grandfather and his name changed to Davis.

Almon, born Mar. 21, 1851, married first Mary E. Russ, Oct. 5, 1881. She died August 26, 1914. No children. Married second Emma Russ. No children. Almon Davis and wife used to visit the home of his boyhood every summer, driving a horse from Claremont, N. H. He and his father did quite a business in horses for several years. Almon bought them in the city of Boston when horse cars were in vogue and sent them up to recuperate on his father's farm. Probably this was the reason for the box stalls. While in Boston Almon for some years was employed as hostler by Mr. Ford, owner of *The Youth's Companion*. He became a member of the Ruggles St. Baptist Church, the church to which Mr. Ford made very generous contributions. Almon's wives were sisters. He and his second wife spent some of their winters in California, finally making that state their permanent residence. Almon died in Honolulu.

Freddie S., born July 16, 1855; died April 21, 1864, of canker rash.

## RENASCENCE

Long years ago in a garden  
Flowers grew, gay and varied in hue—  
Sweet roses and old-fashioned “pinies”  
Daffodils, petunias and rue.

The housewife tended them gladly  
And often would call to her aid  
Her husband, the farmer, and helper  
To work there with hoe and with spade.

The sun shone over the mountain,  
Freshness came with the dew and the rain,  
And blossoms in prodigal plenty  
Rewarded all care and all pain.

Years passed and this family with them,  
The flowers were neglected and prone;  
One came and another to live there  
Or the farm was deserted and lone.

Passersby pulled out roots from this garden  
And ruthlessly carried them far,  
What once had been beauty and sweetness  
Was left ugly and rough like a scar.

Long after there came to the homestead  
A couple, young, sturdy, and strong,  
Who sought life as well as a living,  
With beauty around them and song.

One day at the call of the housewife  
The goodman turned turf with his spade,  
The sod was made softer and mellow  
And plans for a garden were made.

Again days sped by with their sunshine,  
Dame Nature brought gifts as of yore,  
Flowers once more brightened the homestead  
And gladdened the eyes as before.

“Here are flowers I never have planted!”  
Exclaimed the good wife in surprise,  
“Nor e’er had their like in my garden  
Nor in basket or box ’fore my eyes!”

Petunias! Old fashioned, gay-colored—  
A growth from the days long gone by,  
From seeds resting deep in their earth beds  
Drawn up toward the light of the sky.

So loveliness lingers among us,  
What is buried responds to the day,  
Dormant faith and oft-lost perfections  
Will revive and thus gladden life’s way.

—By Bertha I. Field.

(The garden referred to in the poem above was the one originally planted by  
Mrs. George Davis, A. M. P.)



## Francis Burnam

Francis Burnam was living in Baltimore previous to its organization in 1794 as a separate town. He was present and voting at that first town meeting Mar. 12, 1794, and was honored by election to the office of highway surveyor and lister and re-elected to the same offices in 1795.

A reference to the diagram of the Governor's farm will show that Francis Burnam purchased 100 acres from Samuel Davis Jan. 29, 1795, paying 50 pounds legal money for the same. It may well be inferred that he held no legal title to the property he had occupied before that date, else why should he feel compelled to repurchase it? This parcel of land lay on both sides of the old road extending from the highway past the Sundgren place to the top of the hill beyond the bridge on the old road.

The story of this Burnam homestead and later the one north of it is one which seems doomed to penury rather than prosperity; they both appear to have been ill-fated, as it were. The perusal of the land transactions of those first families may prove monotonous to the readers, but let it be said that we have no better gauge of the prosperity of those early settlers than that afforded by the land records. If and when a man bought additional tracts of land, we can rest assured that fortune was smiling on his efforts. Banks were unknown in those days, in fact, after their establishment among those hard-working people, many of them believed land to be a much safer investment. Some of the doubters were known, and many were reputed to have hidden their carefully hoarded savings under marked stones in preference to lending them to any bank or individual.

From the 1800 census we learn that Francis had a large family, five children under 16 years of age, besides three adults between 26 and 45 including himself. Not once is it recorded that he bought any land of any description, but before he had held a title to his farm many years, he made two sales, one to Levi Davis, a wedge-shaped piece on his eastern boundary, presumably to give Levi a chance for a barway opening as it now does on to the highway. The next month Nov. 3, 1796, Francis sold Daniel Farr the northern half of his farm about 52 acres for \$100. Cheap enough. That money lasted for some time, for not until Jan. 19, 1802, did he sell Elijah Hildreth the two acres, now an orchard and pasture on the Sundgren farm bordering the highway; \$28 was realized on this sale.

Nov. 15 of that same year he sold David Chaplin Jr. the 18 acres, 143 rods bounded west and south by the highway and now owned by Henry Hammond. On the same day Nov. 15, 1802, he sold Deliverance Burnam 32½ acres lying on both sides of the old road north of the tracts already sold to David Chaplin and Elijah Hildreth and Samuel Lockwood. Oct. 31, 1803, he sold Samuel Lockwood the 11½ acres, the corner bounded east and south by the highway.

When Francis sold the corner lot to David Chaplin Jr., he was very careful to reserve the barn. In Dec. 9, 1803, he finally sold this barn to David Chaplin Jr., which was the last real estate he owned in town.

It is not clear what the relationship was between the Widow Deliverance Burnam and Francis unless perchance she was his brother's widow. On Christmas Day in 1801 she and her seven children had been ordered out of town by the selectmen. Probably the financial prospects were not improved greatly when Francis sold out to Wd. Deliverance.

In 1814 Wd. Deliverance sold two acres east of the highway to David Chaplin Jr.

On Feb. 6, 1817, Deliverance Burnam by her cross signed away her 14 acres 11 sq. rds. west of the road to Amasa Gregory, thereby deeding away her homestead. On Feb. 15 she sold her remaining land on the east side of the road 16 acres to David Chaplin Jr. This was the last of the Burnam holdings on the old road. As for the unfortunate poor of this family, we had them with us for years to come.

Deliverance was wholly uneducated as shown by her inability to write her own name. To be left a widow ignorant and penniless with seven small children as she was by 1801 presents a dire picture for contemplation.

Manasseh Boynton  
(*Field Pasture*)

If we refer to the map of the Governor's farm, we find that Francis Burnam in 1795 bought the middle strip of 100 acres extending from the highway northerly on both sides of the old road through the hollow and to the top of the hill beyond.

Nov. 2, 1796, he sold Daniel Farr of Baltimore the northern part of this tract of about 52 acres for an even \$100. This little farm included what was known for many years as the Field pasture and the Bibens pasture.

Daniel Farr lived on the farm about three and one-half years, was elected highway surveyor in 1799 and sold out to Lemuel Hatch of Springfield in May 1800 for \$300. This price would indicate that Daniel had erected some buildings on the place and probably cleared more land.

There is nothing on record to prove that Lemuel Hatch ever occupied the farm. The following October Lemuel sold it to Joel Wilder of Shoreham, Vt., for \$300, taking a mortgage back for \$230 partly payable "in good salable neet stock." Joel and Lydia's stay was short as we find they sold to Manasseh Boynton of Baltimore Oct. 28, 1803, the 52 acres for \$380. William and Parkman Davis, Caleb Leland, also John Woodbury, bought farms in town in 1803.

Manasseh Boynton was the brother of Jonathan Boynton who settled on the farm now occupied by Henry Allen, also a brother of



Susannah Boynton Martin who married “Story” Martin and lived on the Davidson place.

It happened too that he married Sally Butterfield of Andover, Vt., who was sister of John Piper’s wife Polly. The first record in which Manasseh figures was when he bought the lower end of the Upham lot 50 acres for \$373.33, a rather exorbitant figure it would seem. Perhaps he was attracted to that particular parcel of land because it joined brother-in-law John’s on the north.

All efforts to locate the exact site of Manasseh’s house have been futile thus far. Durant J. Boynton told the writer several years ago that his uncle Manasseh once lived on the old road down near the bridge where the roses are. The roses still bloom year after year, the old-time variety, set out by loving busy hands, maybe as many as fourteen decades ago. All signs of the habitation which they beautified have fallen into decay, but perhaps the roses as positively and much more attractively mark the spot of Manasseh’s and Sally’s dwelling as would the crumbling walls of an ugly yawning cellar hole.

Unlike his brother Jonathan, Manasseh did not seem to thrive on his 40 acres. Nov. 3, 1806, he seems to have sold the farm outright to Joseph Atherton for \$200, buying it back in Feb. 1808 for the same price. The next year he sold Rufus Burnam a strip of land 8 acres next to Widow Burnam’s, 19 rods along the west side of the road. Maybe this accounts for that cellar hole just over the wall and about halfway down the steep hill. Rufus might have built for himself a humble short-lived dwelling place; otherwise that cellar hole must still remain shrouded in mystery. Five years later Rufus deeded this land back to Manasseh for exactly the same price \$98.04.

We surmise that Manasseh gave these warranty deeds from time to time to relieve his financial straits. Later he adopted the mortgage plan, borrowing money from his neighbors James Martin, Jona. Woodbury, *et al.* Finally, Nov. 21st, 1827, he sold his 52 acres of land for \$500 to David Bixby of Springfield. Manasseh engaged to warrant and defend the same against all lawful claims whatsoever except two mortgages, one to William Baldwin dated Nov. 3, 1812, and one to James Martin dated Feb. 16, 1824, “which the said David Bixby is to get discharged at his own resque and expence.” Manasseh made money, at least on his final deal.

Bixby owned it a little over a year. Mar. 12, 1829, he deeded it to Joseph Atherton Jr. and Levi Piper, the 52 acres clear from all incumbrance. In 1831 Levi and Joseph Jr. divided the land between them, Levi having all the land east of the road. Joseph had the remaining larger part west of the road. He soon sold it to Matthew Chaplin, who in turn sold to Levi Piper. Here were 52 acres which added to the Eaton lot gave Levi a farm of 141 acres.

The house on this property was valued at \$77.60 in 1828, but there were several houses in town appraised at less than that figure. David Bixby continued to live in it at least a year after it was sold to



Atherton and Piper, who were each taxed for one-half of house until 1831 when Piper was taxed for two houses, this one and the new one in which he lived. No more was the house on Manasseh Boynton's taxed, the inevitable in such cases had happened—the buildings were probably taken down and the better portions removed to make larger or more convenient the buildings on Levi's home farm.

We regret that Manasseh was not more prosperous. However, his acres were "hard to carry on" it would appear. Not much of his land was level and the soil was inclined to be light or sandy. Fortune then as now did not always smile on the honest efforts of deserving individuals. He had some interest in town affairs, was one of the freemen who voted in 1820 and as clerk kept the records of the South School District at different times.

From the far off Pacific Coast came the following genealogical data of Manasseh's family:

Manasseh, born January 7, 1776, son of Jonathan who was born in Rowley, Mass., Feb. 11, 1744, and married Elizabeth Divol.

Manasseh married Sally Butterfield: children were Lucinda and Freeman, three others—names unknown. Freeman was born in Baltimore, Vt. His son Mirville Hardy b. at Bethel, Vt., married Josephine Montgomery.

#### Amasa Gregory

Kinship has always played an important role in determining the destination of pioneers. Jonathan Woodbury brought his bride Sally Davis to Baltimore in 1793. In 1803 Jonathan's brother John had married Betsy, Sally's sister, and likewise came to Baltimore to buy land, clear a farm, build a log cabin and rear a family. The Davis girls' brother Parkman also came to Baltimore that same year and for the same purposes. Brother William came in 1803, but he bought land that had been previously occupied. William Davis married Phebe Sanders daughter of Solomon and Lydia Sanders in Jan. 1807.

That same year Amasa Gregory and his wife, who was Lydia Sanders, sister to Phebe, came to Baltimore from Royalston, Mass. But Lydia did not come to Baltimore as a bride. Otis, who was probably her first child, was born in Royalston, Mass., in 1799.

The farm to which the Gregorys moved, now the Sundgren place, had had at least two families on it before the arrival of Amasa. That was the farm where the Samuel Davis lived who was elected to the office of constable at the first town meeting. Samuel Davis, by the way, was no relation to William and Parkman. It was a part of the Governor's farm, so-called, and originally extended as far west as the Volney Foster farm. About 40 acres of the east side of what is now Geo. Cook's farm and the 55 acres in the farm adjoining now the Walter Pollard place were all at first included in the Samuel Davis property. It is believed this Samuel was son of the Samuel Davis who bought the entire Governor's farm for forty shillings in 1795 at a vendue (500 acres).



We read in the Land Records that on Jan. 29, 1795, Samuel Davis “of Windham alias Londonderry *Gentleman* for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds . . . . . paid before the delivery hereof by Samuel Davis of Baltimore . . . . . yeoman,” the last word indicating that Samuel second was inferior to Samuel first. That portion of this 150 acre tract, now part of the Pollard farm, was sold in 1797 to an Ezra Davis and later to an Amos Lockwood. Soon it was that the Davises in Baltimore began to give way to the Lockwoods, already becoming so numerous in Springfield. March 31, 1801, Samuel Davis of Windham sold Jacob Lockwood who already owned 800 acres in Springfield, the 110 acres left in the southwest corner of the Governor’s farm. Jacob, in turn, sold out to his son Samuel in 1805 who was already living on the place. Evidently Samuel, like his father, was a land-getter as in 1803 he bought a strip containing  $11\frac{1}{4}$  acres on the north side of the highway leading from Henry Hammond’s to the Sundgren place which abutted his east line.

So when Amasa Gregory came to town in 1807, unlike the Woodbury boys and Parkman Davis, he had some cleared land and some sort of habitation, maybe a log cabin. And he seems to have been happy and contented with his land holdings for at least ten years. In 1817 he bought of the Wd. Deliverance Burnam the land she owned north of the  $11\frac{1}{2}$  acre strip Samuel Lockwood had bought in 1803 and west of what is now called the old road, 14 acres, 11 square rods and deeded “to the middle of the rode.”

No more does the name of Amasa Gregory appear in Book No. 1 of Baltimore Land Records. But wait until 1841!

The first school meeting in Baltimore of which we have any record was held at the house of Amasa Gregory, April 4, 1809. Amasa was elected “Destrict Clark” and served in that capacity for three years. So we have preserved for us specimens of Amasa’s handwriting. He bid off the teacher’s board once at 49 cents per week, and again “2 weaks at 51 cents a weak.” In 1832 he bid off mistress’ board at 40 cents per week, also bid off 2 cords of wood to be furnished for 44 cents a cord. Certainly Amasa was not avaricious in these respects. When Walbridge A. Field taught school in Baltimore, he boarded at Amasa Gregory’s 12 weeks at \$1.20 a week. When Walbridge finally graduated from Dartmouth College with a perfect scholastic record, entered the legal profession and was finally advanced to a seat in Congress from Massachusetts, then it was that the family of Baltimore Gregorys were, probably, duly puffed up. “He lived with us all one winter”; can you not hear them so saying?

As a town official Amasa seemed to have served mostly in a law-enforcing capacity. He was elected constable eight years in succession beginning with the year 1811. It will be remembered that he it was who served notice on Luther Graves and several others to depart said town. He put “a trew attested copy of this precept” into the hands of his wife. Her little son, who was just about a year old on that fateful day, grew up and married Emily Gregory, Amasa’s



daughter. We wonder in later years whether the two families made a joke of this incident or did they cherish a feeling of resentment?

Amasa also served as selectman 1821 to 1824 and 1825. His heart did not melt with compassion toward the poor if they were lazy. This trait was noticeable later in Mrs. Emily Graves, also in Otis and Ella. Amasa strongly advocated in 1825 a "House of Correction or Work House" so the town could put its poor to work. The main offender lived almost 50 years longer, was in his prime in 1825, about 28 years old with a wife and two children. He deserved a berth in some place like a workhouse.

One gathers from the records that Amasa and wife were both energetic and thrifty. We find that their house was appraised in 1828 for \$174.60 at which valuation with only slight fluctuations it remained as long as the Gregorys owned it. It seems reasonable to conclude that Amasa built the present house before 1828. When anyone in town erected a new house, the listers promptly and justly increased the appraisal thereof. This did not happen to the Gregory house at least after 1828.

When Amasa bought the land of Wd. Deliverance Burnam, he moved the house on it to his own house attaching it to the ell part. Subsequent owners have used it as a shed, but it still bears the chair rail, fireplace mantel and the stairway that poor old Widow Deliverance and her numerous progeny often climbed. This is a part at least of one of the oldest buildings in town. It has been said that two families lived separately in this Gregory house for some time and well they might—there was certainly sufficient room. This may account for the partial preservation of the shed's interior until the present time.

The Gregorys did not keep as many farm animals as many of their neighbors. Sometimes they had two yoke of oxen. In 1831 Amasa was listed as having two oxen, nine cows, four two-year-olds, two horses, one colt and twenty sheep; evidently swine were not listed in those years. Let us ponder on the possibilities of what was derived from the live stock above—all the meat the family required (and it came not sliced and boned and cubed for them either). The oxen provided the power necessary to pull stumps, haul stones for walls and plough the fields. They were finally killed and used to provide the family not only with meat, but with tallow for candles and hides which were converted into leather from which an itinerant cobbler often made shoes for the whole family. The cows furnished, besides meat, milk, butter, cheese, veal, rennet. The writer remembers seeing Emily Graves, Amasa's daughter, using home-grown rennet in making cheese and Emily's candles were in daily use in the Graves home as late as 1901.

Amasa seemed to like horses as he kept a larger number than most of his neighbors; evidently he kept a brood mare as he always had colts listed. Thus did he provide himself with a means of transportation which may have been the envy of his neighbors.



At least he was not dependent upon a gas station nor worried as to the outcome of a rationing of tires by the government as in January 1942.

The few sheep Amasa kept could not have brought him much money from the sales of wool or mutton. But he and Lydia raised a family of eight children to adulthood, and it must have meant busy hours for Mother Lydia and her girls to keep abreast of the mittens, stockings and garments which must be made from home-spun.

What puzzles the writer most is that Amasa generally had some money to be taxed, in 1829 \$300, then in 1835 \$100, then in 1838 \$400. Now where did he get it? Of course he boarded the school mistress at "49 cents per weak" and sold wood delivered at 44 cents per cord, but the money gained from those efforts would not pile up very fast. It is easy to understand that those families did not have to spend much for food, clothing, joy rides or cosmetics, but how they could "lay by" any money is beyond the writer's comprehension. Suffice to say, they did have the money on hand or they would never, never have paid taxes on it.

Much effort has been made to make the Amasa Gregory genealogy as complete as possible out of respect to Emily Gregory Graves who spent her entire life in Baltimore and to her daughter Ella E. Graves who was the town's most generous benefactress. The vital statistics rooms at Montpelier and North Springfield cemetery were faithfully visited and the Director of the Library of University of Wisconsin, Gilbert Doane, was approached before the incomplete records of all eight children were obtained.

The first source of desired information was Amasa's will which is recorded at length in Book 2 of the Baltimore Land Records. We wonder at Amasa's making his last will and testament a matter of public town record. Then as now people were generally secretive about their money matters, and to find information curious folk or would be historians have to journey to probate offices. A copy of the will follows, after the usual preliminaries as to his having "a sound and disposing mind and memory" and the payment of his just debts, he disposed of his estate as follows:

1. *I give to my beloved wife Lydia Gregory one third of all my real and personal estate . . . . . to be conducted and managed as she shall think best.*
2. *I give and devise to the heirs of my son Otis Gregory deceased fifty dollars to be equally divided between them.*
3. *I give and devise to the heirs of my daughter Lydia Warren deceased fifty dollars to be equally divided between them.*
4. *I give and devise to my daughter Harriet Warren one hundred dollars to be paid to her or her heirs in one year after my decease if she shall outlive me. Said legacy to be on interest after my decease.*
5. *I give and devise to my daughter Emily Graves one hundred dollars to be paid to her or her heirs in two years if she shall outlive me . . . . .*



6. *I give and devise to my son Amasa Newton Gregory four hundred dollars and interest to be paid to him or his heirs in three years after my decease if he shall outlive me. . . . .*

*It is my will also that all the remainder of my property whether real or personal . . . . . to be equally divided between my two sons Isaac Gregory and Amasa N. Gregory or their heirs if they shall outlive me, to be divided as soon as possible after the last legacy shall have been paid.*

Father Amasa constituted and appointed son Isaac to be his sole executor of his last will and testament. This will was drawn up June 7, 1849. Thus does the will establish the identity of six of Amasa's children, only two missing.

Amasa Gregory b. 1775 d. Baltimore Dec. 12, 1849, age 74 yr. 10 mos.

Lydia Sanders b. Billerica, Mass. d. Baltimore Dec. 6, 1858, age 81 yrs. 6 mos. 20 d.

Dau. of Lydia & Solomon Sanders

#### Children of Amasa and Lydia Gregory

1. Otis b. in Royalston, Mass., 1799, buried in North Springfield. 2 children.
2. Lydia b. in Mass. m. John H. Warren. Lived and died in Wallingford, 2 children. Died Aug. 10, 1847, age 44 yrs. 9 mos.
3. Harriet b. in Mass. m. John H. Warren, her sister's husband, in Baltimore, May 14, 1849, by Frederick Page, Minister of Gospel. It will be seen that Harriet married late in her life. The grand list of Baltimore for 1848 shows Harriet was taxed, also in 1849. It has been said that Harriet died in Wisconsin.
4. Franklin b. in Mass. d. April 6, 1838, age 33 years. It was interesting to note in the Grand List Book for 1838 that Franklin Gregory was listed as having \$1500 in money, a gold watch set in the balance of \$4 and a carriage valued at \$50. Evidently poor Franklin came home to die as he was not taxed in any of the ten previous years.
5. Isaac b. in Baltimore, Vt. 1814 m. Lodema G. Woodward. (2 children H. M. b. 1844, H. W. b. 1846). Moved to Stoughton, Dunkirk Township, Wisconsin. In 1860 census of that town Issac Gregory is listed as a farmer having real estate valued \$30,000, personal estate valued at \$7,850. His wife Lodema had real estate valued at \$11.00. It would appear that Isaac amassed quite a fortune in a short time.
6. Emily b. in Baltimore. She appears in the Graves Family Sketch.
7. Betsey d. in Wallingford, Vt., May 1, 1835, age 19 yrs. 8 mos. Buried in Green Hill Cemetery, Wallingford. She probably died at her sister Lydia's home. Why she was not buried in North Springfield is unknown.
8. Amasa Newton b. Baltimore 1823 m. Joanna Angel in Baltimore Oct. 26, 1848, by Moses Kidder. In 1860 was a harness



maker in Stoughton, Wis., had 2 children, Ida age 5, Elbert age 2 both born in Vt. Real Estate \$5,000. Personal \$700. In 1870 census Newton had died, as Joanna, age 40, housekeeper, is listed as head of family. She has one more child Alice 9 years old. No property except real estate \$800.

By 1841 Amasa, born in 1775, was growing old. That may be the reason why he sold son Isaac the 4½ acre mowing in the corner north of the road for \$60. He also demised, granted and farmlet to Isaac all the land he owned in Baltimore for the term of five years beginning April 1, 1841. Accordingly in 1842 all the livestock was set to Isaac, who had personal property of \$1191.50 listed for taxes; next year it dropped to \$861.50; and the next year neither Isaac nor his father had any personal property over and above debts owing. This would indicate that financial reverses had overtaken them or Isaac may have ventured forth in new business enterprises; at any rate he was no longer listed in Baltimore for a poll tax. He was residing in North Springfield in 1844 when he sold the 4½ acre mowing to his brother Newton who may have been living at home with the old folks.

In 1849 Amasa sold the little wedge-shaped piece of land bordering the brook of 13 sq. rd. over which the road now passes after making the abrupt turn near the end of the road leading to George Cook's house. John Piper paid him \$1.50 for it. The next day Amasa sold his daughter-in-law, Joanna Gregory, the 40 acres west of the road to the Chester line. This was an important move; in its entirety it was never a part of that farm again except the five-acre lot now belonging to the Sundgren farm on the Geo. Cook road. All the rest of this 40 acre tract was sold later to John W. Piper on the Geo. Cook place and still remains a part of that farm.

Amasa died in Dec. 1849. Then it was that the Gregory acres were cut and divided into pieces as if to make a jig-saw puzzle. If we will refer to Amasa's will, we find Widow Lydia was bequeathed the usual widow's thirds. It appears from the grand list books that those thirds did not consist of a single tract of land equal to one-third the total acreage of the farm. In 1855 we find Wd. Lydia Gregory possessed of 9 acres meadow land, 5 acres pasture land, 2 acres plough land, 3 acres woodland besides a share in the buildings. The widow's holdings apparently included all the kinds of land necessary for farming operations on a small scale and not necessarily contiguous.

When we further consider Amasa's will and learn that after payment of the legacies as specified, sons Isaac and Newton were to divide the remaining property between them, we can easily account for some of the 24 records of deeds indexed in The Land Records Book 2 under the Gregory name. The grand dissolution began in 1851 when Lydia, Newton and Isaac sold the Burnam pasture to Isaac Gregory Davis, son of William. This tract was a very convenient addition to the Davis farm, a well-built barnway in its extreme southeastern corner testifying to its use. Not until 1871

was this pasture sold back to Sylvester Ellison, and it became again and still remains a part of the Gregory farm. This tract also included the little orchard now on the Sundgren place.

On July 10, 1851, Lydia and son Isaac sold Newton the 21 acres bordering the Wm. Davis farm; Isaac and Newton sold Lydia the whole corner lot where the house stands, 8 acres 102 sq. rd. for \$329. This price indicates that the house was included; also Lydia on the same day was deeded the 12½ acres or the barn lot and another piece of land on Chester line. Again on that same eventful day Lydia deeded Newton for \$150 the house with 8 feet of land on each of three sides and 48 feet along the highway, also the old 40 foot barn, shed and hog house and "land enough to go from said barn to watter and to cart around said hog house." Thus did Lydia deed the buildings to Newton alone who was occupying them, but she deeded her three pieces of land to Isaac and Newton both.

Perhaps Lydia began to have misgivings as to the wisdom of her actions; maybe she became lonesome for her old home because in less than a month on Aug. 4 of that year Isaac and Newton signed an indenture giving Mother Lydia a lease of all the last-mentioned lands during the term of the natural life of the said Lydia Gregory fully to be completed and ended.

Isaac and family moved to the house which stood on the corner where Sidney Ward now lives in North Springfield. That house burned while Isaac resided in it. He then moved to Wisconsin, later to Cresco, Ia. Newton too may have been getting restless. Evidently he was not prospering too well as he mortgaged his land adjoining the Wm. Davis farm and finally sold it (21 acres 102 sq. rd.) to Leonard Redfield in 1856, also the 40 acre tract west of the highway to John Piper as previously mentioned. In this manner was the good old farm of Amasa Gregory divided and subdivided. It was in the same year 1856 that Amasa and Joanna with their little daughter moved to Stoughton, Dunkirk township, Wis. Isaac and family were already in Dunkirk when they deeded to Carter Piper Jan. 9, 1857.

Carter Piper, returning from a sojourn in the West, bought the old Gregory farm perhaps at the behest of his father, John Piper, bought of Leonard Redfield the middle strip with the buildings and five acres from the Joanna 40-acre holdings and gave Wd. Lydia a written agreement to pay her \$29.61 a year during the term of her natural life, which was not for long. Lydia, suffering from palsy, was obliged to make her cross in signing the document. Jan. 9, 1861 she passed away.

Son Carter may have been a disappointment to his father as he did not remain in town long but he did start to put the jig puzzle back again.



Amos Bemis Family  
(Farm owned by George Cook)

The one outstanding and interesting fact concerning this place is that this is the only farm in town, at the present time, owned by a direct descendant of the first settler thereon. George Cook is the great-great-grandson of Amos Bemis who came to Baltimore previous to 1794. His brother Reuben purchased the southern half of Joseph Webster's right, then divided the tract with his brother Amos, the latter taking the southern half of the southern half bordering on Chester line, about 75 acres. The foundation of the log cabin could be outlined until quite recently, and the well still remains. This habitation is said to have been the first in town and located in what is known as the Hayward lot down the hill from the cellar hole where Amos later built his frame house.

Amos Bemis was on the committee in 1794 to divide the town into school districts. He was not especially active in the town's affairs but was elected tithing man, hayward, highway surveyor of South District several times, and was often elected to the office of town grand juror, the duties of which probably were not burdensome.

That Amos was diligent about his own business is evidenced by the fact that he and his wife Lydia (Goodnow) reared a family of at least seven children. The census of 1800 shows Amos Bemis to have had a family of three boys and one girl under 10 years and a boy and a girl between 10 and 16 years; he and his wife had not then reached the age of 45. Lewis was not born until 1809. So many if not all of his children were born either in the log cabin or the house.

Amos died Oct. 3, 1835, age 74, and is buried in Baltimore cemetery. In spite of the fact that many by the name of Bemis were born and died in Baltimore Amos is the only one buried here to have a headstone. Other graves marked by common field stones are near Amos; probably Lydia rests in one of them.

October 10, 1835, son Joel sold his rights in his father's estate to his brother Elijah for \$100, who also bought Amos' right for \$100. Lewis Bemis bought his brother Robert's right Nov. 16, 1835, paying \$150 and lost money by so doing. It would have paid him to wait. Robert took a mortgage back on his share for \$100. In March 1836 Elijah sold the three shares he now owned to Lewis for \$300 and Lewis borrowed \$500 of Earle Woodbury to settle with his brothers.

Dec. 26, 1835, the estate was appraised by Earle Woodbury, Jonathan Woodbury, Jr. and Jona. M. Boynton. The 100 acres of land in Baltimore and Chester were appraised for \$1050; the Widow Lydia was set off 31½ acres as her dower, or thirds, bordering on land of Henry and of William Chandler. This tract must have included part of the barnyard, as two-thirds of the barnyard was reserved to the heirs to be taken off the east end. Lydia had 10 feet of the west end of the barn with a privilege of passing to and from and around it, also the northwest corner room in the house, but "reserving to the heirs the right to occupy the oven at suitable



times.” She also had one-third part of the cellar, “the chamber over her room with a privilege in the buttery and to the well.”

Then each heir was to receive one equal sixth part of the residue amounting in value to \$119.16. Nancy, wife of John Horton, was deeded 10 acres 6 rods on the east line of land set off to her mother. She and her husband already had built a house on this land. They did not seem to be very prosperous. This property was deeded to Dennis B. Allen in 1853 and has never been owned since by any of the Bemises.

As has been noted, Lewis had already bought his brother's share at \$100, each thereby saving \$19.16 on each share, except Robert's.

Lewis and his wife Rebecca began housekeeping on the Nahum Bemis place above Gassetts when the Rutland Railroad was being built past that place. Their two oldest children, Lydia and Mary Ellen, were born there; ten more were born to them in the old house on the hill in Baltimore. According to one of the boys “there was two years 'twixt all our ages.” This house became too small probably and possibly somewhat delapidated. Anyway, they planned to build a new house nearer the barn, south of the old one. The old house was torn down, except the ell part which was moved down to the place now owned by Ernest Stevens. The cellar was partly dug for the new house when son Martin, home from the war, and Lewis bought the place now occupied by George Cook, and the family moved down there and abandoned the old homestead on the hillside.

There is an interesting item concerning an old apple tree still standing on this farm. It is claimed that this was one of the first, if not the first, apple tree to be set out in Baltimore. It was such a novelty at the time that people came from Woodstock and other places that were a day's drive distant to view this tree. Its fruit was, and is, quite inferior both in size and flavor. It seems strange to think of Baltimore with no apple trees. But if disease, insect growth, and freezing weather continue to take their toll, fifty years from now may find this section devoid of apple trees.

After this purchase, 30 acres were soon sold off the Reuben Bemis place to Walter Allen for a pasture, also 20 acres off the old Amos Bemis farm to Fred Field, who later sold to John Chandler. The farms being put together, so much pasturage was not needed, and the money received for the sale was used to reduce the debt. Perhaps at this juncture it may be well to refer to the genealogy of the family of Lewis and Rebecca Farr Bemis as far as obtained.

Lewis Bemis	m.	Rebecca Farr
son of Amos Bemis & Lydia Goodnow		b. Cavendish
b. in Baltimore Mar. 17, 1809		d. Baltimore
d. in Baltimore Sept. 21, 1890		Feb. 1895

#### Their Children Were

Lydia—m. Seymour Newton, moved to Dakotas—son—Herbert.

Mary Ellen—m. Asahel Olney—dau. Ella m. Edward Pierce—one daughter—Ellen.



Edmund L.—m. Ellen Kirk—dau. Ellen m. Chas. Cook July 4, 1880.

Children: George H., Floyd O., Edith R., Ethel, Eben.

Charles E.—unmarried—disappointed in love—lived and died alone.

Andelucy—m. Ozias King—adopted dau. Agnes King m. Eugene Bryant.

Lowell R.—m. Clara Hall—children: Minnie m. Chas. Carlisle; Ina m. Ernest Stewart (Ina b. Jan. 24, 1871); Carrie b. Feb. 4, 1875, m. Herman Lockwood; Cora m. 1st. Arthur Davis, m. 2nd. Harold Turner; John m. Edna Matthewman; Arthur m. Ada Pratt.

Henry H.—b. May 12, 1842 d. May 12, 1864, Co. C. 16 Reg. Vt. Vol.

Martin V.—m. Cora Weightman—no children.

b. Mar. 4, 1844 d. Oct. 12, 1925.

George E.—died in war Dec. 7, 1864—buried at sea, age 18 years 5 mos.

Sidney F.—m. Mrs. Adams—no children.

b. Jan. 19, 1847 d. May 2, 1932.

Solon Q.—m. Mary Hall, Feb. 2, 1871;—children: Loland E. b. Mar. 11, 1875; Lucian d. young.

Lucian—died Sept. 1862—diphtheria, age 10 years 10 mos.

The school records show that for several years seven children from this family were attending school, or at least were entitled to attend. Think how busy that mother must have been with the cooking, washing, sewing and mending necessary to be done for all those sturdy boys. And be it said to Rebecca Bemis' credit that she was a notably good housekeeper. The Bemis boys often told that their father used to buy 12 barrels of store flour each and every fall when the family was the largest, besides the buckwheat flour and corn meal which they provided for themselves. He made his living entirely off the farm and raised and trained steers as a sideline. When he died, he left \$300 to each of his children besides his widow's rights.

Probably the work this mother did for her family was not the hardest of her burdens and cares. From that list of boys five saw service in the Civil War—Sidney, George, Martin, Lowell and Henry. The last-named must have enlisted from some other town.

From the Record of the Roll of Baltimore Soldiers available to the writer, the following is copied: "Volunteers for 3 years previous to call of Oct. 17, 1863 Sidney F. Bemis, Moses Rumrill (*lived with Lyman Litch and enlisted from there*). Volunteers for 3 years after call of Oct. 17, 1863 George E. Bemis, Martin V. Bemis. Volunteers for one year Jerry Febber, Newell Wolcott (*These names are entirely foreign to Baltimore. They were probably substitutes for men drafted from Baltimore A. M. P.*). Volunteers for 9 mos. were Lowell R. Bemis, William M. Holden (*on Volney Foster's place*), John A. Landgris in U. S. navy (*stranger to Baltimore*)."

The story is still told of Sidney's running away to enlist when barely 16 years. He was an overgrown boy and lied about his age, so was accepted. When he came home and told the family what he had done, his father raised \$300 and took his young son to Brattleboro intending to secure his release because he was under age.

Sidney, however, declared over and over again that he was going to enlist and would not give up his intentions to do so if his father did succeed in frustrating his first efforts. Seeing the futility of opposing him, the father returned with his money in his pocket but with his young son all set to be a soldier in the U. S. Army.

The battle of Waldon Railroad proved a day filled with disaster for two of the three Bemis boys engaged in it. Martin lost his arm just below the elbow and poor George was taken prisoner. Sidney was designated that day as one to draw the rations so was comparatively safe. Martin came home and in Feb. 1865, wrote Ellery H. Webster of Irasburg, Vermont, (stepson of Irena Davis born and reared on the Parkman Davis place) to learn what he could about his brother George. The letter in reply is now treasured by Geo. H. Cook. Let us read some extracts from that letter that we may know what it meant even in those days to be a prisoner of war; and, if you are a mother, let your thoughts go out in sympathy to Rebecca Farr Bemis as she read these lines.

*Irasburgh, Vermont Feb. 8th, 1865*

*Friend Martin.*

*I have just received your letter of the 4th enquiring about George. We were taken prisoners the 28th of June as you will remember. George was with us all the while until the 10th of Sept. We left Andersonville, Georgia and went to Charlestown, South Carolina. George was not able to go with us and he was sent to the hospital. Since then we have not heard nothing of him. I suppose I might as well tell you just what I think about him. Martin, I think your brother George is dead long ago. It was an awful place there and we did not get half enough to eat and poor unwholesome stuff at that. Out of the 50 that was taken I don't think there is a dozen alive ones now. You wanted to know how we fared. I am not able to write a long letter now and it would take a long one to tell you anything about it. I know you are anxious to hear from George so I write to you a few lines and send them by the first mail.*

*Yours truly,*

*Ellery Webster*

George was finally discharged from the prison at Andersonville; probably his race was about over. When on the boat coming home, he died of chronic diarrhea off the coast of South Carolina and was buried at sea. The date of his death was Dec. 7, 1864, and he was then only 18 years 4 months old.

War in 1860-65 was not so utterly destructive and annihilating as the war practices of 1939-40. But it took men of courage and daring to face the rifle fire and roaring cannons of those days. Today no one is safe in the war-torn countries; children, invalids, old people are not immune from the ravages of war. Yet the Bemis boys with other red bloods of the North went forth from homes where they were safe and comfortable to enter the deadly strife. Let us cherish the memory of their self-sacrifice.



We cannot conclude this sketch of the Bemis family without making some mention of the talent in music possessed by Lewis Bemis. He was a drummer of note, and every one remembering him at all mentions his ability with the drum, though he passed away a half century ago. A former teacher in the school, Fannie Raymenton, relates that he used to call his big family together at meal time by playing his drum.

The writer recalls when she was seven years old the Baltimore school held a picnic the last day in the maple grove back of Erwin Sherwin's. The pupils did not rush to the picnic grounds yelling and racing like wild Apaches. Indeed not. Our teacher, Cellie Fairbanks, paired her pupils in orderly ranks and we practiced our marching steps. When the great day came, we pupils were led by three generations of Bemises. Grandfather played the snare drum, Solon the big drum, and Lolo the fife. It is to be doubted if any better marching was ever done in Baltimore or anywhere else by children. It is safe to surmise that no better music for marching was ever provided for pupils than that which led our sprightly youthful steps to that enchanted picnic ground.

During Lewis' last sickness some of his grandchildren prevailed upon him to get out of bed and play his drum for them. That was the last time Geo. Cook saw his grandfather alive as the old man was near his end.

Solon was the child who seemed to inherit the most musical ability. He could play different instruments and was a talented violinist. In his latter years he became quite a genius in making violins, some of which were sold to talented players. He made his first violin when sixteen years old.

### Amos Bemis Family

	Descendants
Robert, lived on Stevens place below Harris place.	none
Joel, lived in Chester and Baltimore— died 1876 age 79 yrs. 6 mos.	Elizabeth, wife of Wm. Weightman. and Emmaline, wife of Alonzo Currier.
Elijah, lived in Cavendish and Baltimore died June 29, 1869 age 69 yrs. children by first wife—	Pauline m. George H. Piper Roxanna m. Melvin Chapman.
children by second wife— Asenath d. Feb. 6, 1871 age 66 yr. 6 mos.	Albert, his son Carl m. Marian Atherton Alpheus d. Feb. 9, 1871, age 19 yrs, 8 mos. 4 d.
Elijah lived on the Sundgren place. He was killed when his horse ran away while riding down Redfield hill. Mr. Bemis was thrown out and struck a stone just around the turn at the foot of the hill, killing him almost instantly.	
Amos, Jr., lived in Chester. Lewis, lived in Baltimore with his father until the latter's death.	

Nancy, lived in Baltimore. m. John  
Horton.

Ezra, joined a circus and became an  
acrobat.

Nancy, —

Armanda, m. Horace Farr

Mr. Charles Brown of Greenbush  
is a descendant, also Alice Robin-  
son.

### Reuben Bemis Family

Several people can recall hearing the Bemis boys, Solon, Sidney or Mart, tell on occasions, "There were two Bemis brothers, Amos and Reuben, who were among the first settlers in Baltimore. Amos, our grandfather, settled on the hill and Reuben down on the place where Lewis Bemis finally bought." Aside from this bit of data and town records no other material is available. Not one person has been contacted by the writer who is a descendant or has known a direct descendant of Reuben Bemis. Yet Reuben had 11 children at the time of his death, 9 of them born in Baltimore.

The records provide rather dry factual reading; nevertheless such information is bound to be authentic. The inferences drawn therefrom may be somewhat colored by imagination, but no anecdotes or reminiscences will be forthcoming in this sketch.

We are indebted to the vital statistics of Springfield for the information that Reuben Bemis and Lois Spencer were married July 23, 1794. According to the 1800 Baltimore census, Reuben Bemis had three children under ten years of age, a man over 45 in his family, six in all.

It appears that Amos was the older brother and certainly was living in Baltimore at the time of the first town meetings. He was put on the committee to divide the town into school districts. However, Reuben was the first to obtain a deed of land and have it recorded. May 20, 1792, "Asaph" Fletcher of Cavendish, physician "for and in consideration of Forty pounds paid by Reuben Bemis . . . yeoman," sold one hundred acres of land being and lying in Cavendish alias Baltimore,—it being the easterly part of the south half of the first division lot of Joseph Webster No. 34 (*said Joseph was therefore the original proprietor*). Not until 1806 did Reuben deed the southern half of the southern half, 78 acres to Amos for \$94.

That Reuben was ambitious and enterprising is proved by his land purchases. When Samuel Davis bought the Governor's farm, it was surveyed possibly for the first time. If Reuben's buildings were then where Geo. Cook's now are, he must have found that they were located, not on the Joseph Webster right, but on the Governor's farm, so-called. Volney Foster's west boundary extended in a straight line to the east boundary of the Horton lot, thence to Chester line according to survey. So Reuben bought a three-cornered piece of land out of the Governor's farm, beginning at his southeast corner and running north ten degrees east until it strikes a small brook, then down said brook until it strikes the road that runs from Amos Bemis to Weathersfield line (*no road out of Baltimore then by the Bibens place*), then on said road to the first mentioned boundary (*northeast corner of Horton lot*.)



In 1803 he bought an acre of land for \$10 in the southeast corner of Luke Harris' farm to provide a spring of water for his cattle. Next in 1804 he bought 25 acres for \$150 from Luke Harris, running 36 rods east of the road to Parkman Davis' northwest corner. In 1806 he and Jonathan Woodbury jointly purchased 55 acres from Levi Davis for \$547. This tract included the lower portion of what is now the Pollard big pasture and straight east to the town line. In 1811 Reuben bought Woodbury's share for \$53. In 1808 he bought 25 acres from Samuel Lockwood for \$280, the upper part of the Pollard pasture west of Hammond wood lot. With these purchases he now owned nearly all of what was once the Levi Davis farm.

Now we find Reuben's name on the other side of the index more frequently as a seller. In 1815 he sold David Chaplin six acres in the northwest corner of the Governor's farm lot for \$108. The same day he sold 10 acres off the northern end of the Luke Harris purchase to Benj. Litch for \$110. In 1823 he sold nearly 10 acres of the Luke Harris purchase to Parkman Davis for \$97.19. In 1824 he sold John Woodbury 5 acres 77 rds. for \$79.47, the remainder of the Luke Harris purchase. It will be seen that he almost doubled his money on this land. In 1826 Reuben was living in Springfield when he sold Wm. Davis for \$487, 39 acres of the upper part of what is now the Pollard cow pasture. Also in 1826 he sold Orin Chittenden the land east of Wm. Davis' pasture to town line \$128.00 containing 8 acres 85 rods. In 1828 he sold his farm in Baltimore to Obed Thurston 80 acres for \$1000. This deed included the three-cornered lot bordering the brook and the acre he had bought of Luke Harris, thus conveying all the land he then owned in Baltimore. Thus it will be seen that Reuben did a profitable business as a land speculator even in a small way.

To Reuben must be given credit for building the good house still standing on the George Cook place. Though it has undergone much in the way of remodeling, all the alterations have tended toward improvement, and it is a very comfortable, pleasant, old-fashioned home. The exact date of its erection is unknown, but in 1828 it was appraised for \$186.30, nearly as much as Joseph Atherton's house known to be a new one! Reuben's house was the fourth best one in town at that time. He himself had moved to Springfield, but his son Cyrus lived on the home place until 1828.

Reuben was a good citizen inasmuch as he took an active part in the town's affairs. Then as now the busiest men most successful in managing of their own affairs were the choice of the voters for town officials. Reuben was elected nearly every year to one important town office. Six times he was elected lister, twice as town treasurer and six times as selectman. He was on the board of selectmen the year so many people were ordered out of town, among them an Ethan Spencer, also an Amos Spencer and family. Could Reuben have been so inhospitable as that to his in-laws? His wife was a Spencer.



In 1803 he was one of the twelve who were listed as being present and voting at Freeman's meeting. But in 1824, that memorable year when Baltimore was allowed to elect her first town representative, Reuben was not present. His son Cyrus, however, took the Freeman's Oath and voted. Possibly Reuben had already left town.

We learn from the Springfield records of 1830 that Reuben Bemis and Clarissa Spooner were married Dec. 9th. of that year. If Reuben had died penniless, this sketch must need have ended here. But, generally speaking, the Bemises do not die that way and Reuben was no exception. The Probate Office at Ludlow provided a copy of Reuben's will presented in 1839 which made disposition of his property as follows:

To his wife Clarissa he willed all the household furniture, also one cow, also one-half part of estate both real and personal. To his sons Charles Bemis and Henry Bemis, children by his second wife, he willed \$300 each, then plainly stated that was all they were to have; the rest of his estate was to be equally divided among his other heirs. His estate was settled in 1839.

Wm. Dyer and Sylvester Burke took the inventory as commissioners. Among other possessions they appraised two pews in the old brick meeting house (on top of hill in North Springfield) for \$2.

Reuben's home was the place now owned by Duane Allen which he, Reuben, purchased from Socrates Hastings. Rev. R. M. Ely had lived there when he was minister and he sold it to Hastings.

These buildings with the two acres of land were appraised for \$420. The sum total of his debts was \$40.86 and his property was valued at \$4248.25.

There were exactly \$198.81 for each of Reuben's other nine children, presumably the offspring of Lois, the first wife, and born in Baltimore. Their names were listed as follows: (*We will supply the bits of genealogical data available. A. M. P.*) Reuben Bemis d. May 5, 1839 Age 72, Lois Bemis d. Sept. 14, 1829 Age 54. Children: Enos married May 27, 1821 Submit Haskins. He died 1874 age 78 yrs. 6 mos. Cyrus; Lyman; Aaron; Esther m. Stephen Martin Mar. 8, 1827; Rebecca m. Adolphus Ellison, Chester, Dec. 29, 1825; Lincoln m. Harriet Spooner Aug. 16, 1827; Seymour; Lorinda m. Mayes Rogers July 4, 1831.

Apr. 29, 1840, a Clarissa Bemis married Lysander Davis of Chester. The Reuben Bemis homestead was sold and each of the older children signed off their rights in half of it. It is from these deeds that we learn the whereabouts of Reuben's older heirs in 1841. Aaron was in Ionia, Mich.; Cyrus, Seymour and Esther had all moved to Barton, Orleans Co., Vt.; Lyman was in Lisbon, N. H.; Rebecca in Plymouth, Enos in Weathersfield, and Lorinda in Springfield, Vt.

In a measure this explains why no descendants are to be located by the writer. They were quite widely scattered; their father's home was broken up when they were comparatively young; and



probably they did not return very frequently to visit either in Baltimore or North Springfield.

### The Glynn Place

The story of the Glynn place is the story of a homestead that changed ownership sixteen times in seventy-five years. The reason for so many changes is not wholly apparent. It was always situated on the town's most travelled highway, the land was comparatively level, the water supply was reasonably dependable. True the soil is rocky, or "boney" as some express it, but no doubt most of the fields cleared in Baltimore were likewise full of stone. The innumerable, endless stone walls bear out that statement.

A good set of buildings once graced this property. No large family of children was born and reared in this substantial house that finally fell prey to devastating flames. Probably no family ever acquired wealth or influence during their short stay on this farm, while other farms less favorably located were subjected to splendid improvements and in turn provided for families of size and importance.

1795—June 10—Isaac Hildreth yeoman to Calvin Davis 50 acres for £ 46, both of Baltimore.

1797—Calvin and Nabby Davis to Samuel Drury of Alstead for £ 130. Drury mortgaged it back to Calvin.

1799—March 4—Drury sold one-half his farm to Josiah Sims of Baltimore for \$200.

1799—June 15— Drury and Sims to John Haven of Leominster, Mass., 55 acres for \$466.68, mortgaged for full amount of purchase price.

1800—April 29— Haven sold to Benj. Bruce, mortgaged to John Haven. Benj. agreed to pay May 1, 1801, a "certain promesary note in neet stock or flax seed", also three other notes of \$100 each, one of which was to be paid each year in "neet stock and flax seed." Benj. must have lost his courage as on Dec. 19, 1800, he deeded back to John Haven for \$10.

1801—June 23— Haven sold to John Bigelow of Worcester, Mass., for \$400.

1815—Bigelow mortgaged to Nahum Duncan. In 1817 mortgaged again to Duncan for \$110 more. Mentions house and barn as included. Possibly new buildings had been erected.

1817—John and Sally Bigelow sold to Benj. Litch for \$700 and on that same day Litch sold to Joseph Atherton.

1822—Dec. 2—Joseph sold to his son, Joseph Jr., for \$1000 and retained right to cut wood and timber during his natural life. Possibly Joseph Sr. built the good house which would account for the increase in price.

- 1830—Joseph Atherton Jr. sold to Willard Hastings for \$900.  
1835—Sept. 4—Willard Hastings to Matthew Chaplin for \$900.  
1836—Sept. 8—Matthew Chaplin to Oren E. Averill of Bridge-  
water for \$1000, mortgaged to Chaplin for \$950  
which was paid Jan. 8, 1842.  
1852—March 26—Averill to Wd. Mary Preston for \$1000.  
1859—Wd. Mary Preston to Theodore Merrill of Jackson, N. Y.  
1865—Nov. 9—Theodore Merrill to Ozias King for \$1100.  
1871—Ozias and Anna D. King to Geo. Jefts and Nancy Glynn of  
Chester for \$1400.  
1873—April 24—Joseph and Nancy Glynn to Robert Glynn for  
\$960. Robert and Susan made out a writing  
agreeing to execute a warranty deed of the  
premises in favor of Nancy and Joseph Glynn  
when Nancy paid him \$960. On March 3, 1875,  
Nancy and Joseph released and surrendered the  
claim.  
1901—Robert Glynn sold to Herbert A. Glynn to be Herbert's at  
the decease of said Robert A. Glynn. Herbert  
A. Glynn Est. to Celia Shepard.

It will be seen that the Glynn family was in possession of this property over a span of years. But in 1880 the house was burned to the ground and never rebuilt. This house was considered a fairly good one, built something after the plan of Louis Sundgren's. It was painted yellow. A parlor and parlor-bedroom faced the road back of which were a sitting room and family bedroom and pantry in the main part. The ell consisted of a kitchen, woodshed, and sinkroom. The barn remained standing several years.

Contrary to the usual fate of farms deprived of their buildings, the acreage of this farm has always remained intact except four acres which Robert Glynn set off to his sister, Harriet Lockwood, as her due for caring for their mother in her last days.

The Averill Family was prominent in town and church affairs. Mr. Averill served as lister and highway surveyor in 1838, as constable and collector of rates and taxes in 1840, and as surveyor and lister at various times. The school records proclaim him to have served as prudential committee and to have boarded the teacher and supplied the wood. He boarded one Allura D. Woodward 6 weeks at 68 cents per week. She might have been a relative of Mrs. Averill who was Lucinda Woodward before her marriage. Her sister Lorinda married Horace Martin at one time a resident of Baltimore. There was also Lodema Woodward who married Isaac Gregory of this town.

The Averills moved from Baltimore to North Springfield and lived in the house recently owned by Bernard Ward. Their house, however, stood at the foot of the hill until it experienced the flood of '69 after which Mr. Averill moved it to the higher ground it now occupies. There were no Averill children listed in the school records of Baltimore, but a Smile Lockwood lived with them for several



years and attended school. Mr. Averill was deacon of the No. Springfield Baptist Church for many years.

Edmund Batchelder Family  
(*Volney Foster's Place*)

Isaac Hildreth lived on this farm in that memorable year of 1794. The first highway mentioned in the first-meeting records was the "rode" from Weathersfield line to Isaac Hildreth's. However, he might not have been secure in his possessions as Samuel Davis in 1795 sold him 100 acres of the land he was occupying in 1794 for £50 lawful money.

In 1798 Isaac sold 54½ acres of this land to Joseph Hildreth of Chesterfield, N. H., for \$365.66. Joseph mortgaged the farm to Isaac, agreeing to pay three different notes in "beef, neet stock, and grane." Joseph deeded it back in 1800 to Isaac, who later in that same year sold the farm to Samuel Clark of Andover, Vt. There is nothing to prove that Samuel lived here at all during the four years he owned it, and in 1804 he sold the place to Edmund Batchelder of Townsend, Mass., 54½ acres for \$500.

By the process of deduction it seems reasonable to believe that Edmund Batchelder built the house now standing. In surveying the road from the Volney Foster to the James Shepard farm in 1799 it refers to Joseph Hildreth's "hovel" as a point of beginning. This would indicate that Joseph's habitation was in a state of wretchedness. Isaac Hildreth was ordered to "depart said town in 1801", which in early practice was a reliable indication that his financial prospects were none too bright. Samuel Clark has been "weighed in the balance and found wanting"—in the records of the town meetings from 1800-1804 his name does not appear. Then, as now, no man could live in Baltimore four years and not hold a town office. Convinced that the Hildreths were too poor to build a good house, also that Samuel Clark never lived in town, we therefore conclude that Edmund Batchelder built the house. Q. E. D. Possibly it was built for his bride Rachel Bartlett whom he married in 1808. He certainly had an attractive site on which to build, one of the few old-fashioned red houses of one story now remaining in this vicinity.

Edmund Batchelder did not strive to be a large land owner and did not furnish the town clerk (or his wife) many chances to earn pin money by recording. In 1822 he purchased the pasture on the easterly side of the highway between his mowing and that of Thomas Preston, 19¾ acres for \$233. This provided him with a farm of 74¼ acres on which he was content to live and here were born his four girls and one boy.

A study of the grand list of Baltimore for 1830 shows Edmund Batchelder's house with a medium valuation of \$135.80. He had two oxen, 4 cows, one 2-year-old heifer, one horse, one 2-year-old colt, and 16 sheep. In those days nearly every farmer in Baltimore kept some sheep; now there is not a sheep in town. A perusal of

subsequent grand lists shows the number of farm animals kept by Edmund remained practically the same.

He was not extremely prominent in town affairs but served in the useful capacities of surveyor for South District several times. Some years he bid off the town paupers to board as well as the school teachers. He kept the Widow Phebe Gates for one year for \$35.90. In 1825 he bid off Nancy, a girl who was a town charge, for 24 cents a week and "agreed to clothe her and clear the town from all expense." He had four girls of his own; so probably Nancy's labor was not needed in the home. Undoubtedly it was a charitable impulse rather than one of greed or avarice that prompted Edmund and Rachel to share their home with Nancy.

In the South School District Edmund served in every capacity except district clerk, which means no specimen of his handwriting is preserved. For some years they voted "to board on the schollar"; so we know the Batchelder home with its five children was liberally patronized. When they bid off the mistress' board, the records show that on one occasion Edmund "bid off two weeks board at 42 cents a week", also bid off 2 cords wood at 46 cents per cord. It was stipulated that the wood must be good, hard and dry. As late as 1849 Edmund bid off 2 weeks board \$1.06 per week. This is the last time his name appears on the town or school records.

Truly Edmund farmed in a small way. The house was neither pretentious nor commodious for those times when size played an important part in the construction of houses. His was a modest income, and he was never listed as having any money to tax. We can safely infer that the children of Edmund and Rachel Bartlett Batchelder were not reared in luxury. Yet there is undeniable proof that the atmosphere and surroundings of this home were of the highest order, as reflected by the standards of living which their children adopted in later years.

It was the writer's privilege to spend a delightful hour with Mrs. Marcia Batchelder Bishop of Springfield. Her father, Abel Batchelder, was very fond of his Batchelder cousins of Baltimore and from Mrs. Bishop much valuable information was obtained.

She prefaced her reminiscences with the remark, "The Batchelder girls all made out well when they married." Perhaps at this juncture reference may well be made to such genealogical data as the writer has been able to collect.

#### Batchelder Family

Nathaniel Batchelder's son, Edmund Batchelder,, b. 1780 in Townsend, Mass., d. Oct. 23, 1860, in Springfield, Vt., m. 1808 to Rachel Bartlett, b. Townsend, Mass., d. Apr. 10, 1849, in Baltimore, Vt., age 65 years.

Edmund m. 2nd wife—Eliza Temple, Springfield, Vt., Apr. 4, 1850.

#### Children of Edmund and Rachel

Mary—b. Nov. 14, 1808, d. Feb. 24, 1877, m. Seldon Cook, Jan. 15, 1829.



Harriet—b. 1810, d. Apr. 17, 1886, m. Jonathan Martin Boynton.  
Cynthia—b. Nov. 7, 1811, m. Lucius Griswold, m. 2nd. Chandler Eddy of Londonderry.

Cynthia's children: Cynthia Lorette b. 1833, Lucius Dana b. 1835, Harriet Augusta b. 1839 d. 1840, Collins R. b. 1841, Amelia A. b. 1842, Eliza Ann b. 1844, Abby Jane b. 1850, Fred Herman b. 1856.

Edmund—b. Mar. 10, 1813, d. Feb. 5, 1835, age 21 yrs., 3 mos., 25 da.

Rachel—b. Nov. 26, 1818, m. Alden W. Sherwin.

Rachel's child: Henry W. Sherwin, b. Sept. 27, 1842, d. summer of 1916.

Lucius Dana Griswold enlisted in the Civil War. He was taken prisoner and was stoned in Libby Prison. When he was released he did not live to reach home, dying in New York state. He was a splendid-looking young man with full beard. The writer has a picture of him which was given her by Mrs. T. H. Richardson.

It will be noted that Cynthia had a large family, and it is interesting to know that, with the exception of Cynthia Lorette born in Springfield, the other children were born just over the line from Baltimore on the Griswold place now belonging to the Bibens' farm. Everyone knows where the "Griswold Gate" is.

In 1858 Lucius Griswold deeded this land to Joel Woodbury. We can only conjecture what became of the house. The barn remained standing until about 1895 when it was burned by an incendiary together with a colt that was occupying it. In those days the residence of the parents generally afforded a birthplace for their children. Even the stork knew not the exact location of any hospitals.

Harriet Batchelder Boynton settled in Baltimore and will be given due attention in the sketch to be prepared about the Boynton family.

So far as known by the writer, Alden and Rachel Sherwin had but one child, Henry Alden Sherwin, born in Baltimore on what is now known as the Dan Rich farm Sept. 27, 1842. This boy, however, was destined to become one of the most illustrious sons of Baltimore. We are indeed fortunate to gain much of interest concerning Henry Sherwin from his second cousin, Mrs. T. H. Richardson of Chester. Her mother, daughter of Jotham Bartlett, grew up in North Springfield until 14 years of age when her parents moved to Weston. Her father was C. W. Sprague who kept a store in that village. When Henry Sherwin was 13 years old, he came to work for her father. Quoting Mrs. Richardson, "Some said he seemed rather young but he proved to be a jewel."

In 1859 he went with his parents to Cleveland, Ohio, where they accepted a good offer to work for a relative. In due time Henry Sherwin became the founder of the Sherwin-Williams Paint Co. He was its president until 1900 when he became Chairman of the Board of Directors. He died at his summer home in Winden, Ohio, in 1916. He had amassed a fortune, was rated as a millionaire



when he died. People that knew him intimately stated that he did much good with his money.

He married Fannie O. Smith of Cleveland. They had five children, four girls and one boy. His daughter, Belle Sherwin, was president of the National League of Women Voters from 1924-1934. In one of her letters she writes, "I remember with interest that, at the election of President McKinley, my father said his native town had cast a unanimous vote for the Republican candidate, and then added that the number of votes at that time in Baltimore was eleven!"

According to Mrs. Richardson, Henry Sherwin came east many times. One time he went to Baltimore to the house where he was born. Not a thing could he find but the stone step in front of where the house had stood. He broke off a corner of the stone remarking to his wife as he did so, "I am taking this stone to my home as it is the only thing left of the place where I was born." It will be remembered the brick house burned when Albert Chapman lived in it, and some few years elapsed before he finished the present house in 1902.

Among Mrs. Bishop's treasures is a bundle of letters well over 100 years old written by Edmund Batchelder and his cousin Abel Batchelder. In an effort of this kind one hardly expects an injection of the romantic. But those letters were so imbued with deeply religious sentiment, and reveal so clearly the part religion played in the lives of those and other young people of their day, some excerpts from them can not be out of place.

It appears Edmund voluntarily played the role of a "match-maker". This word seems too flippant to use in describing Edmund's sincere efforts to encourage a matrimonial alliance between his cousin Abel, who lived in Andover, Vt., and one Lois Chandler who lived on the Frank Moore place on the Gassetts road.

Edmund was a pupil in Chester Academy when he wrote Lois Chandler, June 3, 1833. "Respected Lady," he begins, "The subject to which I solicit your attention at this time is one by a request of a respected cousin who has arrived almost to a proper age to engage with some one to be his partner in life, and noticing different ones last Sabbath his attention was attracted (by a little assistance) to the person which I am now addressing. He expressed his mind calmly and decidedly that he should be pleased to form some acquaintance with you.

"Respecting his situation and father's family he says he has affectionate parents, one brother and four sisters. His father owns two farms considered to be good. Without doubt one of them will be his.

"I have often heard him state that he should live single for a great length of time unless he found someone that would agree with him in this point, and that would be wont to bow and pour out their heart to God at certain seasons with him."



Edmund further stated in this letter that he expected to leave this country soon and move to the distant West or South and craved a word in Lois' prayers that the Lord would continue to bless him.

Lois wrote in reply, "Because of my confidence in you, Edmund, I venture to say it will be agreeable to my mind to form an acquaintance with him (cousin Abel). The most encouragement you gave me was that he is a Christian." Lois added that she hoped when he (Edmund) left the country that the spirit of the Lord would go with him and believed the privileges of New England great for worshipping God.

Edmund Jr. was a teacher in 1834. In March of that year from Chester he writes his Cousin Abel, "I finished my school in pleasant terms without the least offense from the inhabitants or from the pupils and they gave me an invitation to come and teach next winter, but I told them I would be in this western country unless I was disappointed." (*Poor Edmund Jr.! He little knew what the near future held in store for him.*) He invited his cousin Abel to come to Chester, then they would have time to go to Springfield to Mr. Cook's (probably his sister Mary's). "I shall plan to go in four or five weeks, if not convenient to come then, three or four weeks from that time would suit me. I have my washing done at home so go home once in about four weeks." Transportation was not so easily obtained in 1834, no thumbing for rides.

He also wrote Abel, "The time that I promised to write has passed. It has been neglected because for want of a bearer to convey it to you." Evidently there was no daily mail to Andover in 1834. "The subject which I have heretofore taken into consideration for your welfare is now blasted for a season if I am informed right. I was sorry to learn last week that a Mr. Woodbury called on Miss Chandler on the subject of matrimony. It is generally thought that it will be of short duration, but I am not able to say. I was sorry to hear the news. She is healthy, smart for business, and a very good singer and a true follower of the meek and lowly Jesus. I am sorry she is not at your refusal. I shall probably know if he stops visiting her and will communicate the news to you."

The last letter in the bundle from Abel to Lois was written in Oct. 1834. He stated therein that he would not be able to call as he planned, as he was "going below". Lest the reader should find the suspense unbearable it may as well be told that Abel and Lois *were* wed Jan. 3, 1837, at her home on the Gassetts road by Rev. C. W. Hodges.

But alas for poor Edmund! He did not live to see the consummation of his efforts. His sun sank in the West forever for him on Feb. 10, 1835. His letters show him to have been a young man of sterling qualities, earnest piety, and lofty purposes. The reason for the splendid qualities of heart and mind possessed by the progeny of Edmund and Rachel Batchelder is most obvious. It was a good name, and we regret that Edmund Jr. did not live to prolong that name in this locality.

Mary Batchelder married Selden Cook whose forbears were early settlers of Baltimore. His mother was Polly Bruce, daughter of Joseph and Philadelphia Wheeler Bruce. She was first cousin of the Athertons. Both of them were Quakers; they died the same day and were buried in the same grave. Polly Bruce married Oliver Cook, and they lived on the Dexter Olney place on the plain overlooking North Springfield. It was from their farm that land was taken for the Pine Grove Cemetery, and Mr. Cook, father of Selden, reserved the privilege of selecting the best location for a burial lot for himself and family. Not far from the fountain and to the west of it are found the graves of Oliver Cook who died in 1863 and Polly, his wife, who died in 1842.

Selden Cook was a shoemaker starting business in Proctorsville; after two years he removed to Springfield and engaged in mercantile business. He and his wife were very devout members of the Congregational Church in that village for forty years.

Their children were Mary Ellen b. 1830 d. 1832; Rosella b. 1833 d. 1835; Ellen Maria b. Feb. 7, 1840 m. O. S. Tuttle; George Selden b. Sept. 27, 1841, lived for some time in Bellows Falls; Adam Perkins b. Oct. 2, 1844 d. 1846; Everett B. b. Jan. 30, 1852.

#### Parkman Davis Family (*Frank Kendall Place*)

It is hardly within the scope of an effort of this kind to trace the ancestry of the prominent first families back to Europe. In the case of Alexander Parkman Davis, however, the writer feels justified in giving some space to him, being, as he was, the progenitor of the two generations living in Baltimore in the 1800's that numbered at least 42 souls, 4 being his children, 38 his grandchildren; and later, several great-grandchildren were born in Baltimore.

Alexander Parkman Davis was born 1749 in England and came to America when a small boy with his father, a brother Robert, and an Aunt Collins who later died in Boston. Robert went to sea and was never heard from again. Alexander P. was bound out either to a farmer or a tradesman.

Though a native of England, Alexander Parkman Davis rendered valuable service to his adopted country during the Revolution. He enlisted from Templeton, Mass., in 1777-1778 in Joseph Wild's Co., Col. Sparhawk's Regiment. By this time he had three children, possibly four.

In 1772 he had married Abigail Gregory of Templeton, Mass. She was probably a relative of Amasa Gregory who came to Baltimore in 1807 and settled on the farm now owned by Louis Sundgren.

Their children were:

Parkman—b. Jan. 29, 1773; d. Jan. 16, 1836—married—Sally Forbush, dau. of David Forbush, d. Apr. 10, 1864, age 86 yrs. 3 mos. 10 da.



Sally—b. June 14, 1774—married—Jonathan Woodbury.

Betsy—b. Feb. 1776—married—John Woodbury.

William—b. Apr. 15, 1779—married—Phebe Sanders.

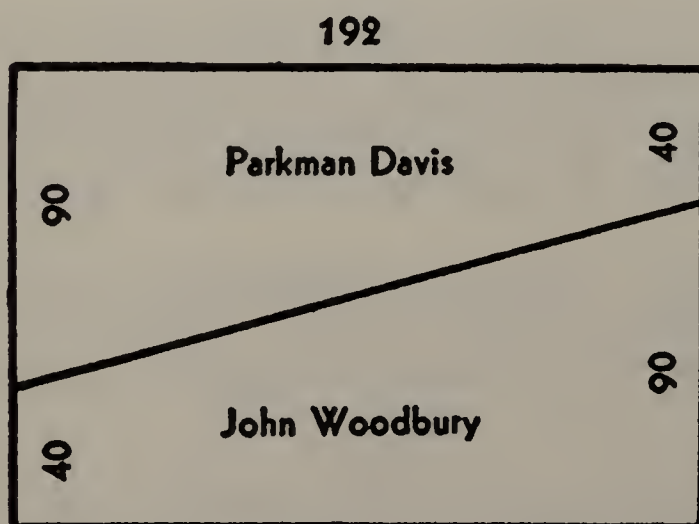
Then there was a Lydia b. Feb. 17, 1778, d. Dec. 21, 1792, and Anna b. Sept. 6, 1781, married Dec. 1806 to Nathaniel Pierce, d. July 10, 1846.

The first four of these children came to Baltimore soon after marriage, and all their children were born in this town, in houses of their own building. There were thirty-eight own cousins all living to mature men and women except one. Such a bevy of first cousins, some of them double cousins, three families of them on farms that joined! Think of the baseball nines and football elevens those cousins could have organized! If they lacked a player or two, they could just go over to their Aunt Anna Pierce's in Springfield who lived on a farm in Eureka. She had nine children, five of them boys.

Parkman, the oldest son of Alex. P. and Abigail, lived in Royalston, Mass. His granddaughter, Isaline Davis, has an interesting legal contract in her possession, dated Aug. 1800, in fulfillment of which he was to go by "vessel" from Boston to Georgia to cut live oak or other timber the following winter. He was to provide his own axes, blankets and other tools, the company to provide him transportation, washing to be done at three cents a piece, food, tea at least once a day, beef or pork with bread or rice, peas or beans or other vegetables in sufficient quantities, and when at actual work, one-half pint new rum per day, or other drink of equal value and wages at \$15 per month. What a munificent remuneration!

This Parkman came to Baltimore in 1802. Early the next year he was married to Sally Forbush, and he and his brother-in-law John Woodbury on Apr. 12, 1803, purchased from Brown & Putnam 152 acres on the northern half of the original right of Joseph Webster. The tract was rectangular 192 rods by 130 rods. They divided the land between them in this manner—

The diagonal line divided the rectangle into two equal trapezoids, the northern-most one belonging to Parkman who paid \$260



for his part, John paying \$300 for his. They were the first owners to dwell upon their newly acquired acres of wild forest land. These tracts are now known as the Frank Kendall farm and Allen pasture. Parkman built a log cabin and in it their first baby Harriet was born Oct. 15, 1803. We may as well insert here the names of their children and dates of their birth.

Harriet—b. Oct. 15, 1803—m. Phinehas C. Robinson; d. Mar. 1882.  
Ray—b. Feb. 2, 1805—m. Feb. 1, 1823, Sarah Farmer; m. 2nd  
June 8, 1834, Hannah Brown, Troy, Vt.

Willard—b. Jan. 19, 1806—m. Delia Shepherd Leland; d. Aug.  
22, 1850.

Sally—b. May 31, 1808—unmarried; d. Aug. 21, 1826, age 18 yrs.  
2 mos.

Elvira—b. July 26, 1809—unmarried; d. Sept. 15, 1844, age 35.

Mary—b. Dec. 2, 1811—unmarried; d. Mar. 1, 1840, age 28.

Betsey—b. Apr. 30, 1813—unmarried; d. Sept. 30, 1884.

Irena—b. Oct. 11, 1814—married Albert Webster.

Parkman, Jr.—b. Apr. 16, 1816—m. Abigail Eunice Pierce;  
d. May 30, 1900.

Chauncey—b. Nov. 8, 1817—unmarried; d. Jan. 2, 1884.

Franklin—b. Aug. 13, 1819; d. July 28, 1826, age 7 yrs.

Lydia—b. May 24, 1821—unmarried; d. Apr. 7, 1895; insane  
for many years.

The first seven of these children were born in the log cabin, the site of which is not known. Irena was born in the small frame house which is still standing and is used as a back room by the present occupants. The new house appears to have had but one large room downstairs. A lean-to of uncertain age may have been part of the original structure. A spacious fireplace was at one side of the room. Square timbers projected into the room and some of the plastering still clings to the sidewalls.

What a peculiar process it must have been to nail the split laths to the studding! The stairway at the end of the room was very narrow and steep, but it afforded a passageway to the open chamber above. The fireplace was large, the room small, the children numerous, yet the mother and her girls would sit with blankets over their shoulders while knitting during the long winter evenings.

Under the same roof with this house was a woodshed, the chambers of which might have been used for sleeping quarters. A well of cold water was close by the back door and is still used for refrigeration purposes.

This new house probably seemed the acme of comfort and convenience to that family, filling their hearts with joy and satisfaction. Irena was the eighth baby and Harriet, the oldest, was then just about eleven years of age. But Sally raised every baby to adulthood except Franklin, and he lived to be about seven years old.

That Parkman and Sally's children had some interest in religious matters is evinced by the story that has come down to the present day. The children used to walk down to the Baptist Church in North Springfield, probably to that first church on the plains across from what is now Charlie Rumrill's home. To save their shoes they would carry them in their hands and go barefooted or wear old shoes, changing them before reaching the church and reversing the procedure on the return trip. It was probably no hardship in the



minds of those children to go barefooted. More likely did they regard shoes as the "prison cells of pride."

Parkman Davis Sr. was very ingenious in planning contrivances. The first hay from the clearing was hauled by oxen on a sled, but by another year he had constructed a cart with wheels for that purpose.

In spite of his large family Parkman seems to have been prosperous and progressive. In 1823 he purchased about ten acres of land that joined his farm on the west. Six years later he bought  $24\frac{1}{2}$  acres on the north from the Woodburys. The tillage land on the Parkman Davis farm still holds the reputation of being some of the very best in town, sloping gently towards the east in smooth fertile fields comparatively free from rocks. He, like most of the other farmers, owned pasture land on the mountain.

Parkman Davis and John Woodbury were not so active in town affairs as were the other two brothers-in-law, William Davis and Jonathan Woodbury. Parkman was elected highway surveyor, also lister several times, and often served as town grand juror, if and when there was any serving to be done in that capacity.

In 1831 Parkman Sr. deeded his son Willard one-half of all his land for \$700, four parcels in all besides the mountain land. Willard was the "boy who stayed home."

It would appear that the main part of the present house was erected about this time. Willard had taken his Freeman's Oath Sept. 1827. In 1830 he was elected district collector for the school, in 1831 committee man. In 1832 he bid off the master's board four weeks at 78¢ per week. In 1833 he lowered his bid to 77 cents per week, but in 1834 Willard bid off one week at 78 cents and one week at 80 cents! We may safely infer that Willard had married and was living in a separate house. They certainly had no room for boarders in the first new house. Little Aurora was born in 1834, and it was ten years before Willard bid off the teacher's board again. He then received \$4.08 for boarding the school mistress six weeks. Let us hope the fair lady did not demand much in the way of knick knacks or special attention.

The second structure was well built and consisted of two rooms downstairs and two chambers finished off. Between the two rooms downstairs was a large chimney in the center with two big fireplaces, flanked by a commodious closet on one side and an entry with outside door on the other side. The parlor bears evidence of good workmanship with handmade moulding outlining the casings and quite an elaborate mantelpiece and frame for the fireplace. With three large windows it is today an attractive room.

In 1828 Parkman's house was appraised for \$72.75. In 1832 all the appraisals on houses in Baltimore were raised, and Parkman and Willard Davis' house was appraised for \$150, only one house being listed to them. In April 1836 Willard was assessed for  $\frac{2}{3}$  house \$100 and Wd. Sally  $\frac{1}{3}$  house for \$50. But in 1838 Willard Davis' house was valued at \$177 and Sally had a separate house listed at \$58. Perhaps that first house was always referred to as

the "new house" and Willard had finally completed the second and much better house.

Parkman Sr. died in 1836. His half of the real estate was appraised for \$815.50, one-third of which was set off as Widow Sally's dower. She was given 18 acres of land adjoining to Edmund Batchelder's west lines, 2 acres on Earle Woodbury's land, also the "new house so called" with a privilege to the well and woodshed and dooryard and the use of 25 apple trees in the yard west and adjoining the house, likewise one rod wide on the south side of the garden, also 10 feet off the west end of the barn, with a privilege in the yard and water and likewise the privilege of going to and from the barn and to her land and from the same. Unlike most of her family, Sally lived to be an old, old lady, 86 years old at her death. Let us hope she was able physically to avail herself of the above-mentioned privileges. The grand lists of those years show that Widow Sally Davis always had one cow.

Probably son Willard and his family lived in the second house with its two rooms.

From those same grand lists we can learn the exact number of farm animals kept by the various owners. In 1828 Parkman had 2 oxen, 4 cows, 2 two-year-olds, 1 horse. Not many head of cattle to support such a large family. In 1835 Parkman and Willard together had 4 oxen (a yoke for each man), 9 cows, 2 two-year-olds, 1 horse and 25 sheep. In 1839 Willard kept 78 sheep. In those days they raised all they fed their animals, no buying of grain or expensive silos to fill. None of the farmers seemed to plan farm products to sell in great quantities.

It is apparent that some years later an extension was built on to the second new house on the end next to the first house, out of which part of the present kitchen and a pantry were formed. This addition was of cheaper construction. It extended to the first house, but the corners lacked about eighteen inches of meeting and the two gable ends were not exactly at right angles to each other. For a time it seems they still had to step out of doors to pass from one house to the other. Later they extended the end of Willard's house by the end to the further corner of the first house and this addition provided an entry, the room where Lydia was confined because of her insanity, and a milk room.

It does not appear that Willard craved town office. He served as lister a few years, also as highway surveyor and auditor several times. He seems to have been far more interested in school affairs. He was often elected to the prudential committee and was frequently one of the four voters to request a school meeting. When the stone schoolhouse had been built seven years, Willard Davis "washed and cleaned it" for its first time for the princely sum of 70 cents. He furnished the stone school room with its first and only blackboard, receiving 75 cents for the same.

Willard and his wife, Delia Leland Shepard, had six children as follows:



Aurora E. b. Dec. 2, 1834 m. Dennison White, lived in Rutland  
 d. Dec. 11, 1925  
 Franklin W. b. June 14, 1836 d. July 23, 1838  
 Ziba Leland b. Apr. 12, 1839 m. Cynthia d. Jan. 12, 1863  
 Ormus Chauncey b. Mar. 15, 1841 m. 1875 Catherine Wise d. about  
 1890 in Boston.  
 Ladora Elvira b. Feb. 7, 1846 and m. Seneco Gale of Michigan d.  
 Apr. 20, 1930 in Oakland, Calif.  
 Eugene, who was born 1851 after the death of his father, Willard  
 Davis, who lived to be only 44 years old.

His widow, Delia, sold her land and her other rights to her husband's brother Chauncey, also the family pew No. 18 in the North Springfield Baptist Church. Parkman Davis Jr. acted as Administrator.

Delia and her five children moved to North Springfield to the house where John Bemis now lives, and she and her eldest daughter worked desperately hard to provide for the needs of her large family. People today remember that Aurora used to go out sewing for 25 cents per day and ply her needle from early morn until after candle-light.

Eugene Davis became a doctor and practiced in Michigan. One day in conversation with a patient, an old man whose name also was Davis, he asked him where he was born. The man replied, "I was born in the State of Vermont in a little town called Baltimore." "Why, so was I", replied Doctor Eugene, but they found that they were not related. Probably the old man was a son of Samuel Davis who purchased the "governor's farm so called", 500 acres for 40 shillings in 1795.

Parkman Davis was a "smart young fellow," according to Mr. Zenas Graves, a neighbor some years his senior. The writer was then a child, and the young Parkman Jr. referred to by Mr. Graves had a long white beard and was deemed so extremely old by the writer that it was highly amusing to her to hear him called "young Parkman". That Mr. Graves did not err in his judgment of Parkman's ability is proved by the school records in which the following items occur, "Employed Parkman Davis to keep school in the winter of 1839 and forty three months at 20 dollars per month." His daughter, Isaline, still has a little certificate in which Parkman Davis is recommended "as a person of suitable moral character and attainments as a teacher of the youth

signed J. M. Boynton }  
 Wm. Davis } selectmen of Baltimore  
 Levi Piper }

Dated Nov. 24, 1838."

The above date would show that Parkman Jr. obtained the certificate before entering upon his duties as teacher. He acted as administrator of several estates and is well and most favorably remembered by Mrs. Fred G. Field as a Sunday School teacher for many years in the North Springfield Baptist Church.

Parkman Davis Jr. married Eunice Pierce, granddaughter of Matthew Pierce, who had an interesting record as a Revolutionary soldier and was one of the 57 members to found the Baptist Church in North Springfield. Parkman and his wife Eunice lived for many years in Andover, Vt., but their latter years were spent in North Springfield in the house where Harry Davis now lives. His sister Harriet's husband, Carter Robinson, built that house.

To them four children were born:

Arvilla M.	b. Aug. 8, 1846	m. Henry Austin of Andover, Vt.
	d. Mar. 7, 1912	Their children: Will, Clarence, Minnie
		m. 2nd John Stevens of Chester

Harlan J.	b. Feb. 1, 1848	m. Lucy Norton of Chicopee, Mass.
	d. June 3, 1935	Their children: Bertha Eunice,
		Norton E.

Leroy P.	b. Mar. 18, 1855	m. Fannie Taylor of Andover
	d. Feb. 27, 1924	No children

Isaline b. June 4, 1857, became a very successful nurse, following her profession several years in the city of Chicago. When the Springfield Hospital was first started, Miss Davis became its first matron and her efficiency, tact and previous experience proved most valuable to the new institution still suffering from its birth pangs. She was a graduate of the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

We have traced the fortunes of Willard and Parkman Davis, Jr. Harriet, the eldest daughter, is given due mention in the sketch of the Robinson family. It is with sadness that we note that Sally, Elvira and Mary died when comparatively young, also Franklin when a little fellow of seven years.

When Chauncey bought the farm in 1851, his mother was still living. His sister Lydia, a beautiful young woman, became insane, so his maiden sister Betsy came to the old home to keep house for her brother and to care for her mother and sister. Widow Sally lived until Apr. 10, 1864, being then 86 years, 3 mos. 10 days of age. "Old age" was given on the records as the cause of death.

Chauncey owned and carried on the home farm the very same length of time as did his father for 32 years. Unfortunately for would-be historians the livestock kept on the farms was no longer enumerated after 1840; so we can not apply that yardstick to Chauncey's farming activities. We know, however, that he carried on the farm in a husband-like manner, and through his endeavors a very fine apple orchard was developed which has been a distinct financial asset to subsequent owners.

He did not seek to enlarge greatly the acreage of his farm. He was quite interested in making a pond at the lower end of the meadow so-called and bought small adjacent tracts of lands from what is now the Allen pasture and Volney Foster farm for that purpose. An uninformed person might well wonder what caused a perfectly straight boundary line to become so extremely irregular all at once.



Chauncey is remembered as having been somewhat eccentric. He seems to have been a firm believer in the saying, "Good fences make good neighbors." It would appear that he had all his line fences divided and a record made of such divisions. One year he called out the fence viewers three times to settle altercations costing him \$2 for each hearing. Perhaps this explains why he was often elected as fence viewer at town meeting. He had a flair for fences.

A clerk in Fred Field's store some years ago relates the following incident with much amusement. Chauncey drove to the store one evening, bought a list of groceries for which he tendered the clerk a \$50 bill in payment. Mr. Field did not keep much money in the store and did not wish to change the bill. "Let it go till next time," he remarked. The next time Chauncey proffered the same bill for groceries and again and yet again. Finally, the clerk suggested to Mr. Field that the next time that bill was offered them, that he would take it to Mr. Field's house and have money on hand there to change it. Next week Chauncey came down late at night as was his habit, bought his several articles, and passed over the familiar bill. To Chauncey's surprise and evident dismay, the clerk took it announcing that he would soon be back with the right change. Chauncey protested such a procedure on the grounds that he could not settle his account that night. It appeared he had a heavy obligation to meet at a certain date. Instead of asking Mr. Field to extend him credit for a time, he had passed out the large bill in the hopes and expectations that Mr. Field would prefer to trust him rather than change the bill. He was not asking favors of Mr. Field by so doing.

The heirs of Wd. Sally Davis conveyed their individual rights to their brother Chauncey through quit-claim deeds. By referring to the records we learn their whereabouts. Harriet, wife of Phinehas C. Robinson, still lived in Baltimore; Irena, wife of Albert Webster, lived in Irasburg, Vt., in 1864. It was probably her son Ellery H. who was imprisoned in Andersonville with Geo. Bemis during the Civil War. He wrote the letter concerning George's probable fate to Martin Bemis, that letter being still preserved. Irena was a kind mother to a large family of children.

In 1858 Ray Davis for \$25 quit-claimed his rights and titles. He was then living in Troy, Vt. In 1882 the children of Willard Davis had all become of age and for the sum of \$25 they all relinquished any rights they might have in their grandmother's estate. We find Aurora E. White then lived in Rutland; Ormus C. in Boston, Mass.; Dora E. Gale in Eaton Rapids, Mich.; Eugene W. in Springfield, Vt.; and Fred E. Davis in Claremont, N. H. How does the name Fred E. happen in the record? Was he not Ziba Leland under a changed name? Ziba was not such a very desirable name after all.

Chauncey passed away Jan. 2, 1884, the cause of his death being recorded as "Disease of the Kidneys." Betsey and Lydia were now the last of their family to remain in the old home place. But Betsey died the following Sept. of dropsy and paralysis. Everyone



then living in this locality remembers Chauncey Davis. He was interested in town affairs, one year holding four town offices, and enjoyed the respect and confidence of a fairly large circle of acquaintances. But of his sister Betsey who lived with him only one neighbor whom the writer has contacted has any remembrance of her, that is Ellen Bemis Davidson who, as a girl, used to work for Betsey sometimes.

One reason for Betsey's seclusion during her latter years was her devotion to her insane sister. Lydia had to be closely confined in a room with barred window and door. She was violent at times and had the appearance of desiring to kill Betsey should opportunity be given her. The Davis home was now at the end of the road, and for months at a time Betsey never left the dooryard so faithful was she to her sorely afflicted sister. Today we have a state institution, also a retreat where unfortunate sufferers from mental derangements can be confined and cared for; it is better thus. Betsey spent years of self-sacrifice in a hopeless cause. After her death Lydia was moved to North Springfield where she lived in her brother Parkman's house eleven more years, dying Apr. 7, 1895, in her 74th year, one of the longest-lived members of that large family. Some things are hard to understand.

The legislature of Vermont is beseeched and besieged each session for larger appropriations for the Institution for the Insane at Waterbury. The quarters for its inmates are crowded to its very doors and the number fast increasing. Some reasons given for the startling increase are that victims of alcoholism are sent there to get relief from the effects of intoxicants on their minds and bodies, also that elderly people whose minds are failing are sent there by ungrateful children who do not wish to be burdened with them in their dotage.

Every good movement is imposed upon. But when we think of the loyalty and sacrifice of Betsey Davis as well as that of Parkman and his wife for their poor demented sister, we marvel at the indifference of the present generation to the needs of those dependent on them. Many an unmarried sister of that day was a ministering angel to the members of her family in time of need with no thought of recompense or plaudits from the crowd.

It is gratifying to know that Chauncey so arranged his affairs that a goodly sum was due Betsey from his estate, which was settled by his brother Parkman, as was also Betsey's estate. Betsey and Chauncey both died in 1884 as previously noted.

Lydia died in North Springfield and her remains were the last of her family to be interred in the Baltimore cemetery. Parkman Davis Sr., his wife Sally, and eight of their children all lie at rest here in God's half-acre. Willard's wife Delia is buried beside him, making eleven graves with eleven headstones all in one long row.

The old farm had been occupied eighty-one years by Parkman Davis and his children. It was owned by them 84 years in all as it was not sold until 1887 when Charles Bridges bought it.



It was rather singular that Parkman Davis Sr. and his brother William should each buy his farm in 1803 and that each farm passed out of the Davis name in 1887; eighty-four years is a long time for one family to occupy a farm. The Graves family occupied their farm eighty-seven years.

### Parkman Davis Family

*By Isaline A. Davis, Northfield, Mass.*

This material was sent to the writer about a week before Miss Davis died, an interesting contribution by a lady then 83 years old. She was prompted to write the following notes and items in way of explanation after perusing the sketch relative to the Parkman Davis family.

Miss Davis wrote as follows:

I have heard my father say that Baltimore, Vt., is the only town of that name in U. S. except Baltimore, Md., which if verified would be an item of interest in its local history, as nearly all towns have duplicate names in many states.

Alexander Parkman Davis married a second wife, Martha, widow of Capt. John Works of Royalston, Mass., and by her had three children. . . . In his old age he was so spry he carried the nickname "Grandsir Nimble."

I do not know the causes of the earlier mortality of half the Parkman Davis Sr. family. I think there was a factory or textile mill somewhere in the region, possibly Weathersfield or Charlestown, and that the sisters Elvira, Lydia, Sally, and perhaps Betsey, worked there for a time. I fancy Elvira and Sally went into a "decline," as it used to be called, which now might mean "T. B." (*It appears that many of the people working in those early mills contracted fatal diseases. Sanitary conditions received no attention and the germ theory of disease was unknown.* A. M. P.)

Parkman Davis Sr. and his wife Sally united with the Congregational Church in Springfield about 1806 or '07—doubtless the date is on their church records. Among some of our papers (not now in my possession) is a writing on a slip of paper signed by them and dated, something to this effect that "we have this day united with the Cong. Church and purpose to lead Christian lives and to bring up our children in Christian faith."

My father, Parkman Jr., was their 9th child, but in the days he could remember there must have been all 12 living in the small "new house," unless possibly Ray might have gone away. At meals children did not sit at table, no room for that, but only the father and mother, and the children would come and be helped to food on their plates and go sit on a bench or the settle or whatever and eat. In his earliest remembrance they used wooden plates; and when they began to have pewter ones, did not like them, as they could not .guy their fork through the meat (doubtless tough)

and into the plate while cutting it into mouthfuls. Buttons were scarce, and trousers and shirts usually held together with tow or linen strings.

My father told me that his and his uncle William's family did not join in a mutual feast on Thanksgiving Day, but on that evening the young folks would go to one house or the other on alternate years, and have a good time with popcorn, nuts, apples, new cider, and games.

The great holiday was the annual muster for training the militia. We possess my father's commission as captain of that brigade of militia, also his sword and long-barreled gun. I remember the gay, high, feather cockade he said he wore to indicate his rank, but that became disintegrated and fell to pieces years ago.

Ziba is a Bible name meaning "army, fight, strength," found in 2 Sam. 9:2, 10, 11, 12, also 16:4 and 19:29. Ziba, son of Willard Davis, was a Civil War soldier. I think he was either sick or wounded and sent home to die in 1863. I well remember the small photograph of him in the family album in his Union uniform. The summer of 1865 his widow Cynthia worked for my mother on the Andover farm, having with her little four-year-old Freddie, a bright curly-haired youngster packed full of mischief and fun.

This was the Fred Davis who later received his father Ziba's portion of the Harriet Robinson estate. About 1895, having a three-hour wait between trains in Claremont, N. H., I called upon Cynthia. At that time Fred had married and was living in some lumber town in Maine.

Aunt Irene married Albert Webster of Irasburg, Vt., a widower with two or three children. She was a good mother to them as also to the two or three born later. Ellery Webster was one of the stepchildren and enlisted in the Union Army. He was taken prisoner and confined for some months in Libby prison in Andersonville, and later wrote a series of articles which were published in an Orleans Co. weekly, and which were sent to us regularly as they were printed, the story of the terrible experiences there.

Aunt Harriet was of gentle disposition; as a child I loved the visits at her home with my parents, but she led a hard life . . . (her husband) accumulated quite a competence as a farmer . . . She strained herself caring for him in his last sickness,—he died in March, was laid in the tomb—she died in May evidently of strangulated hernia, and they both were buried in one grave.

Aunt Irene told me how with the lack of things among the early settlers not every family possessed a darning needle, and of an afternoon a woman would go by the trail through the woods to a neighbor's "stocking mending" . . . . . I do know that Parkman Sr. supplied his women folk with a very good wooden darning needle, for we now have it, carefully preserved. She told of how one woman returning home from a "darning" discovered she had lost her needle on the way and retraced her steps nearly a mile carefully



searching along the path until she found it. One can imagine her rejoicing equalled that of the woman in the Bible parable when she found her lost coin.

Neighbors would sometimes come with a covered utensil to borrow coals for their morning fire. The Davis family never needed to borrow, but often loaned. This was before the days of Lucifer matches.

Now for the story of Chauncey, Betsey and Lydia.

As a child I knew and liked Uncle Chauncey as he made visits to the Andover farm. He and my father were fond of each other. He was eccentric. One of his hobbies was an interest in mesmerism which a traveling man had lectured upon and demonstrated at gatherings through this section. Chauncey was one of whom it might be said “could work best when the sun was in the west.” I suspect that even Aunt Betsey’s sharp tongue could not stir him to action until he was ready nor ruffle his complacency. He was of peaceful disposition, medium height, rather thick through the middle; he had blue eyes, brown hair, full beard, fair complexion, rosy cheeks—could easily have been transformed into a lovely Santa Claus.

Betsey was no clinging vine nor oppressed individual. She was tall, large, rather coarse-featured, dominant, determined; was intelligent, a reader of whatever literature was accessible, the weekly newspaper, and some books. There was a tender streak in her heart which she usually chose to cover up with gruffness.

My mother once said that Lydia was the prettiest of the sisters. I judge she was of more refined make-up and with something of an artistic temperament as you may see by her signature in witnessing documents.

We possess a “hair book” which she made of large sheets of paper with a gray paper cover, containing locks of hair of various members of the family and some relatives and friends, each woven into a neat artistic design like a basket, flower or wreath or rosette; and underneath in her careful handwriting, were the name and in case of some children the age. I do not know if the cause of her mental aberration was a love affair or a religious obsession, or some of each.

Father and Uncle Chauncey were fond of each other. He would come and visit at our house, and father would go there and visit with him (Uncle Chauncey loved to visit). Betsey would prepare their dinner, set it on the table, then go to the kitchen, closing the door, never speaking.

One time when father was going to Baltimore (I was in my early teens) mother said for me to go with him, it was blackberry season. I had a pleasant visit with her, went out and picked some lovely berries to take home. The next time father returned from going there she sent me by him a package containing a silk dress labeled “made in the fashion of 1838,” a nice silk, sort of a taupe color with small woven figure, very pretty long shoulder, full sleeves, full



skirt. Later I made it over and wore it, but now wish I had kept it as it was. I do not know whether it was her own, or if it belonged to one of the sisters.

The winter of 1915 and 1916 I spent in Oakland, Cal., with my cousin Ladora Gale (Willard Davis' daughter). Her father having died when she was young she was at the old home more or less, and with Aunt Betsey. She told me she thought that with all her gruffness Betsey was good to grandmother and used to save special tidbits for her eating—whom she remembered sitting in her chair by the window looking out toward Hawks Mt., and smoking her pipe after meals.

Sometimes little Dora felt so much hatred toward Aunt Betsey that she would go out in the yard and point her finger close to the peony buds, as she had heard that gesture would blast them, and Aunt Betsey loved her flowers.

Bags in which Aunt Betsey put away things were always carefully labeled; she would say, "I like to have my things talk to me."

In those days, raisins were a luxury and came in clusters on stems. She would sometimes give little Dora some to pick over, telling her, "When you find one that is too large to cook, you may eat that," thus covering up any expression of tenderness toward the child.

John Woodbury Family  
(*Walter Allen Pasture*)

The writer had lived within the narrow confines of Baltimore probably fifty years before she knew of the existence of John Woodbury and family in the fields between the farms now occupied by Frank Kendall and George Cook. John and his brother Jonathan married sisters, Betsey and Sally Davis. They were sisters to Parkman and William Davis who also were among the early settlers.

Jonathan and his bride Sally led the van, the other three families not coming until ten years later or 1803. John Woodbury and Parkman Davis bought the western half of the Joseph Webster right, John taking his 76 acres east of brother-in-law Parkman's.

John and Betsey's marriage intentions were read in Royalston in 1798; so Betsey did not come to Baltimore as a bride; they brought one baby to town with them at least.

For a time it seemed that this effort must depend upon town records solely for information as no contact seemed possible with anyone related to or acquainted with any descendants of this family which the records show to have been interesting and progressive. But "sometimes a light surprises" the writer as she delves. While sojourning in Montpelier, Vt., during the winter of 1941 that light came. The man of the house where she stayed was a candy salesman. On his return from a trip one day he exclaimed, "There's an old, old gentleman up in Waitsfield who told me today that his grandmother was born and grew up in Baltimore." Waitsfield!



the town to which many people from Weathersfield, Windsor and nearby towns followed in the wake of Captain Benj. Waite of Windsor, Vt.! The town was named for him and he was most prominent in its early history.

Needless to say this clue was eagerly followed. Promptly a letter of inquiry was forwarded to Mr. Walter Jones which touched a responsive chord. His letter in reply is here inserted as furnished by the old man in excellent handwriting. It was fortunate that the data was thus obtained as about six weeks later Mr. Jones passed away.

"Dear Mrs. Pollard—Your letter of the 26th. is just at hand and it is my wife (Mrs. Lena Bushnell Jones) whose grandmother was Mrs. Elmira Woodbury Bushnell. However, she is much busier than I am so it falls to me to reply.

"Mrs. Jones' father left a book in which he listed the following Woodbury records of his grandfather John Woodbury of Baltimore: Born in Royalston, Mass., Sept. 12, 1773—Descent, English—son of Joseph Woodbury—6 brothers and 2 sisters—Occupation, farmer—Politics, Federalist,—Religion, Congregational—Married Feb. 18, 1798—weight, 154 lbs.—Habits, average—complexion, dark—color of hair, dark—color of eyes, hazel—Health, good—Date of death Oct. 27, 1827—Killed by a fall from a ladder—Age, 54 yrs. Buried in Baltimore, Vermont.

"Of his wife Betsey Davis it is recorded that she was born in Winchendon, Mass.—Feb. 17, 1776—Descent, English and Irish—Father's name, Alex P. Davis—Mother's name, Abigail Gregory—2 brothers and 6 sisters—Religion, Cong'l—color of hair, brown—blue eyes, health, good—died Sept. 14, 1839, of a fever in Waitsfield and buried in Waitsfield, Vt.

"Mrs. Jones has her sampler made in 1797. Of the children of John and Betsey Davis the following is given—

Earle Woodbury Born Oct. 12, 1800, died June 17, 1880

Elvira Born Aug. 20, 1807

Eliza Born June 12, 1811, died Oct. 24, 1884

Maria Born July 17, died Oct. 21, 1878

John Woodbury Born Apr. 15, 1817, died Oct. 6, 1843

"A note says, 'The Woodburys emigrated to this country in the year 1642 and settled in the eastern part of Mass. Their names were John and William Woodbury.'

"Of the above children, Elmira married Pardon Bushnell 'at her home in Baltimore March 1, 1834, by Joshua Leland Esq.' and recites that she had 5 brothers and 4 sisters (probably the above lists only such as grew up).

"Eliza married Jennison Joslin of Waitsfield and a grandson Herbert F. Fisher and a granddaughter Mrs. Guy Bushnell live in Thompsonville, Conn. I'd advise you to write Mrs. Bushnell.

"Maria married Daniel Lewis but he was not of Waitsfield. His home was in New York (Antwerp, I think). I remember him as he

came to visit 'Aunt' Elmira and 'Uncle' Pardon—as I lived next door. Died without issue as we understand it. Very cordially, Walter E. Jones''

From the History of the Town of Waitsfield we learn the names of Jennison and Eliza Joslin's children, m. Mar. 13, 1833. They were: Mary b. 1833 d. 1857; Theron Adelbert b. 1835 d. 1859; Maria Theresa b. 1839 d. 1840; Theresa Eliza b. 1841 d. 1868; Corintha Augusta b. 1843 d. 1892.

What a pitiful tale of early mortality!

The children of Pardon Bushnell and Elmira Woodbury were: Genathon Orlando d. young; George Henry, press manufacturer in Conn.; Fordis Orasmus, Co. B. Vt. Volunteers; Orlando died young; A daughter born and died same year; Milo Albert; Oscar Pardon, a press manufacturer in York, Pa.

On June 6, 1832, Betsey Davis Woodbury married Daniel Griswold of North Springfield. He was grandfather of Hon. Fred G. Field and reputed to be the wealthiest man in the village. He died Aug. 4, 1836.

A study of town meeting records shows that John Woodbury held almost no town offices; for years he was sealer of weights and measures. Probably he believed the old saying "The post of honor is the private station." But as far as attending to his own business went, he with his son Earle were among the most progressive farmers in town. Probably no one living today remembers when there were any buildings "on those old cellar holes in Allen's pasture". Until recently a building stood on the lower side of Frank Kendall's barnyard that was moved from there on wooden rollers, according to the late Sidney Bemis who helped during the operation.

According to the 1828 grand list and those of several succeeding years, the second-best house in town was that one occupied by John Woodbury and son Earle. It was appraised for \$300, only the William Davis house exceeding it in valuation.

They were thrifty farmers, keeping as many head of cattle as did the majority of their neighbors though their home farm consisted of only 76 acres. They generally had 15 or 16 head besides sheep and horses. In 1836 Earle had 4 oxen and 4 horses listed. But John Woodbury's name figures often in Baltimore Land Records Book 1 as a landbuyer, some of it near the homestead which they probably cultivated.

Unlike his brother Jonathan, John Woodbury was in no sense a land speculator. He often bought but never sold. So when in 1825 he deeded his son Earle the undivided one-half of all his premises and the undivided one-half of all the appurtenances thereof, we get the whole story of all his land purchases in the record of that conveyance. They are listed as follows—the homestead farm of 76 acres, 63 acres purchased in 1812 now known as Spaulding lot, 21 acres purchased in 1821, 41 rods along easterly side of road on Shepard farm, 6 acres known as Martin lot bought in 1819 the M. Robinson dower, 5 acres and 77 rods from Harris lot so-called of



Reuben Bemis. And one-half of all these lands was deeded to son Earle free and clear of all incumbrances in twenty-two years after John and Betsey came to town. And the second-best house in town built by their own efforts was standing on it.

It was a tragic incident when John Woodbury fell from the building to his death in 1827 when he was only fifty-four years old. His lonely grave can be seen in the Baltimore cemetery where he and his young nephew, also named John Woodbury, are the only Woodburys buried in town.

Father John's half of the real estate was appraised for \$1096.50 out of which Widow Betsey had her thirds. This included "the Pew in the Brick Meeting house in west part of Springfield" which was the church then in the field opposite Charlie Rumrill's house overlooking Pine Grove Cemetery. Betsey was set off almost 21 acres on the east side of farm, also 3 acres on the western boundary next to Parkman Davis. She was to have two rods square in the garden, use of 41 apple trees, west part of house as far as new part goes, privilege through the entry out of doors and to the woodhouse . . . . . a privilege to take the water out of the spring and carry it to the barn—some privilege.

The father's half of the personal property was valued at \$1098.10 or more than his half of the real estate. But this amount included six notes against Earle Woodbury for \$339.00 and two other notes for \$78.19. The various articles listed would make the hearts of antique hunters today fill with ecstasy, 2 diaper tablecloths \$2.67, 2 diaper towels \$1, brass kettle \$6, pewter plates and platters, etc.

Three of John's children were minors and had guardians appointed for them. After Earle was allowed his half that he bought and Widow Betsey her thirds from the other half, the residue was to be divided among the five children which would include Earle. But "the committee were clearly of the opinion that said lands cannot be divided without great prejudice to or spoiling the whole"; so it was decided Earle should pay to Elmira, Eliza, Maria and John \$136.40 each.

Unlike his father, Earle Woodbury did take some interest in town affairs. He had taken the Freeman's Oath and is listed as among those present at the Freeman's meeting in 1824 when Baltimore elected its first town representative. Father John remained at home. Earle served as lister several times, was on the committee to settle with treasurer, but his chief honor and duty was that of constable and collector for the six years preceding his removal from town in 1837.

We wonder why he chose to emigrate from Baltimore into Weathersfield? Here he was able to begin where his father left off and the latter was certainly successful. Perhaps if one reads the section devoted to highways in this effort the reason will be clear. It was probably disappointing to Earle Woodbury that the road from Benj. Litch's to Springfield was begun and then not completed. Twice an attempt was made to open a road from John Woodbury's



directly to the road above Volney Foster's. The motion was turned down each time, and it appeared to be definitely decided that when Earle Woodbury drove to town he must travel for some distance in exactly the opposite direction. An impartial observer at this late day opines that the road by the Parkman Davis and John Woodbury farms as proposed would have been less hilly and easier to maintain. Often, however, the terrain conditions were not so definite a factor in determining the location of highways as was the personal influence of certain individuals. Perhaps the Jonathan Woodbury's prominence in town affairs had telling effect in the decision to build the road where Jona. could move down to meet it, which he did.

We know Earle Woodbury moved from Baltimore to Weathersfield late in 1837. A study of the school records of the last-named town for 1844 reveals that Earle Woodbury had seven children entitled to attend school between four and eighteen—George E., Ellen C., Ryland P., Henry D., Charles H., Mary J., Josephine M.

The writer has been informed that Earle soon moved his large family to the territory of Wisconsin. Probably the fact that all the girls went to Waitsfield when young, that Earle went west to settle and young John lived to be only 26 explains why this family is utterly unknown to anybody now living in these parts.

Some patient reader of this sketch may ask, "What became of the building, especially that second-best house in Baltimore?" We shall have to resort to the prosaic cold-blooded records. It appears from the records that Levi Harris hired the farm until 1840 when it was sold to Reuel R. Bowman of Weathersfield for \$1500.

Bowman sold to Elisha Shelley of Baltimore for \$1300. In 1844 Elisha put on two mortgages for \$300 each. In 1845 Elisha sold to Clarinda Lincoln, wife of the man then living on farm. In 1847 Clarinda and spouse quit-claimed all rights back to Reuel Bowman for \$100. Now Reuel began all over. In July 1848 he sold to Daniel Simonds of Mt. Holly for \$1100 and took a mortgage from Daniel for the \$1100. Courage and faith must have waxed strong in Reuel. Dec. 25, 1848, Daniel sold to Leonard Messer of Mt. Holly the premises free from every incumbrance, but Daniel did not intend to make a Christmas present of the farm to Messer,—wait for the sequel.

Leonard was to pay a note for \$100 in Oct. 1850 and he was to carry on the farm during the lives of Daniel and Alice his wife—stock the farm with cows, furnish Daniel and wife with horse harness and carriage, or if inconvenient to furnish a horse, then hire one from a neighbor and pay for use of same, give Daniel the use of old part of the house, render and pay Daniel one half of all the butter, cheese, pork and all other produce of said farm during their lives; the half hasn't yet been told of what Daniel and Alice were to have and enjoy. But alas! the 27th day of Jan., 1849, Alice Simonds widow of said Daniel was selling all her rights for ten dollars (\$10) to Daniel Woodward Jr. Admr. of the estate of Daniel Simonds except her right of dower. Leonard Messers quit all claims to the Admr.



for \$192.53. Apr. 27, 1849, Daniel Woodward sold the easterly part of the homestead farm about forty-five acres to Abner Field of No. Springfield for \$525.00, and to Joseph W. Leland (on Slayton Kendall's place) the remainder thereof for \$500. It was a hard fate that befell the 76 acres cleared and cultivated so profitably by John Woodbury and son.

What became of the second-best house in town, do you ask? After further inquiry we are forced to believe that the building moved down to the Kendall farm was the main part of that good house. It is deductible from the records that Abner Field was the person who sold it into disgrace.

Evidently it was some time before 1855 that one building with its rows of good windows made its ignominious trip on rollers down the lane and to the lower part of the barnyard. For a time it was used as a storage for farm tools, but as years passed, sheep, pigs and poultry wandered through its portals at will. Such desecration!

In 1855 a new type of grand list book was provided by the state in which the buildings were enumerated and valued. On Abner Field's farm the buildings listed were only a "farm house and one barn valued together at only \$75." We learn from the various deeds after Earle Woodbury's time that there was a new part, also an old part to the house. Probably just the old part remained.

Abner sold the place in August 1862 to Dennis Allen, but it was stipulated in the deed that Abner was "reserving the possession, use and enjoyment of said premises until April 1, 1863." Probably Abner had rented the farm until that date as there were often transient families in town in those days who had personal property listed. No doubt some of these hired or carried on Abner's farm.

The Allens owned this land for 70 years, and it still bears the reputation of being the best pasture in town.

### The Houghton Family (*The James Shepard Place*)

The first record to be made in the new sheepskin-covered book of land records for the new town of Baltimore was the deed wherein Jewett Boynton of Weathersfield conveyed 100 acres of land on the Sam'l Evans rights, now the Shepard place, to Elijah Houghton of Cavendish in Sept. 1794.

Elijah and his wife Mary came to Baltimore to live, but Oct. 27, 1795, they deeded the farm to their son Seth for 150 pounds of "Lawful mony." Seth and his large family came from Ashby in the county of Middlesex, Mass.

It will be recalled from the school history that in 1796 a center of the town for a schoolhouse was located on Mr. Houghton's land, a committee appointed to take security of Mr. Houghton, and to lay out the land and divide it into three shares for chopping. This project failed, but it brought Mr. Houghton's name into the town records.

In 1797 Seth was voted selectman, also "Seler of wates and masures." In 1798 he was surveyor of highways and sealer of "Waits and Masures." Seth must have served his town well, for in 1800 he was voted selectman and town treasurer, also sealer of leather. Evidently the voters in 1800 believed they could trust the town's treasury with a selectman. He was usually "voted selectman" and often served as a lister. In 1807 he was voted selectman, lister, surveyor of highways and "Sealer of Lather" (leather). Seth was first elected "sealor of Lather" in 1800; they never changed the incumbent of that office or the spelling of it until 1811 when the office was discontinued.

Seth Houghton was not only a good useful townsman but also an exemplary church man. He was the first clerk of the Weathersfield, Springfield, Baltimore church as will be learned from the section devoted to church history.

Mention has been made of Seth's large family. In the census of 1800 the Houghton's family, numbering twelve, was the largest family in town; at least one child was born after that date. We are indebted to Miss Bertha Field for this list of Seth and Sally Houghton's children. The one clue to the Houghton family comes from a package of letters yellowed with age which were written to Mr. Field by Mrs. Purmont of Chicago, who was tracing her genealogy. Their children: First child's name unknown b. 1782; Seth, Jr. b. 1783; Sally b. 1784 m. Jonah Bruce; Ebenezer; Lemuel; Joseph; Polly; Rebekkah b. 1795 m. Joseph Bruce; Mehitable; Elijah; Calvin E.; Aaron L. b. 1803.

Probably the last four children were born in Baltimore, Rebekkah was the baby born Mar. 12, 1795; her parents bought the farm in Oct. 1795.

A careful survey of the records brings no indication to light that any family had occupied this farm previous to the Houghtons. It is safe then to assume that they erected the first buildings thereon and cleared the land. What a strenuous life those early settlers led! The duties Seth took upon himself as a public-spirited citizen added to his burdens as well as to his usefulness.

The only additions of consequence Seth made to his lands were the purchase of the pasture northeast of the road between his place and Edmund Batchelder's (now Volney Foster's). Also about 6 acres of land from Eph. Martin which was set off to the Widow Margaret Robinson—"be it remembered and forever understood that said Margaret is to have and occupy the above mentioned piece of land . . . . . during her natural life," and 30 acres undivided and unlocated land probably on mountain.

Possibly Seth sensed that not all was well with him, for in May 1811 he sold one-half of all his lands both as to quantity and quality to his son Lemuel, "also one half of my barns reserving the dwelling house for my own use and behoof during my pleasure," Seth taking a mortgage on same.



It would seem that Lemuel was yet single as no house room was provided for him. We found in the Springfield Town History that one Lemuel Houghton m. Lydia Holman Sept. 3, 1812.

Seth Houghton died May 4, 1815, in the 59th year of his age, dropping dead while working at his cobbling bench. He is buried in Baltimore cemetery, a plain slate slab marking his grave. At Mrs. Purmont's request Mr. Fred G. Field had a picture taken of his grave which he forwarded to her. Mrs. Purmont was desirous that the words, "Revolutionary Soldier," should be engraved on his headstone as he served in that war, enlisting from Milton, Mass.

Then it was that Lemuel proceeded to buy the rights of the numerous heirs, affording the town clerk several pages of recording and revealing to us the whereabouts of the children. Deeds were made out as follows: June 5, 1815 Joseph Houghton of Jay sells his rights for \$150; June 26, 1815 Seth Houghton of Paris, N. Y., sells his rights for \$88.90; Sept. 23, 1815 Ebenezer Houghton of Jay sells his rights for \$100; Oct. 23, 1815 Jonah and Sally Houghton Bruce of Jay, N. Y., for \$100; Feb. 3, 1816 Joseph and Rebekkah Houghton Bruce of Jay, N. Y., for \$100. (In this deed Joseph refers twice to Becky my wife.)

Possibly the other children were not of age as none of them deeded their rights to Lemuel until Mar. 25, 1818, when Polly and Mehitabel both sold out to Lemuel for \$100 each. This left the three youngest children, Elijah, Calvin and Aaron. Calvin never deeded his rights, but he signed a receipt stating he had sold, which is recorded.

Sally Houghton's rights (his mother's) amounted to  $16\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land, ten feet of the south end of barn, the southwest corner room in the house, northeast bedroom, privilege in the kitchen, one-third of the cellar and one-third of the chamber and privilege at the well.

Lemuel seems to have become restless in his possessions. In 1819 he sold the Margaret Robinson property to John Woodbury. Feb. 5, 1821, Wd. Sally quit all claim to a certain part of the house that was set off to her, and Lemuel deeded Sally that small house standing on south side of the road with convenient room to pass around the same. This may have been a new building as no mention was made of it. We might be pardoned if we surmised that Lemuel now had several children and wanted the big house for himself. Later in the year 1821 he sold Jonathan Woodbury all his land excepting 25 acres between Atherton's west line and the road that used to lead from the Shepard corner straight up towards the mountain. He reserved the house, however, and some room in the barn.

Now the farm began to be broken into small pieces. Mar. 1, 1822, Lemuel sold his sister Polly  $4\frac{1}{4}$  acres; Calvin Houghton bought 6 acres, 78 rods in the southeast corner of the old farm from its new owner Jonathan Woodbury. The same day Lemuel sold his brother Calvin 6 acres bordering on Wd. Sally's and Polly's right. Calvin mortgaged this land to Elijah's family. April 3, 1822, Calvin gave Lemuel a receipt for \$156.33 in full for "my share in my father's estate."



Tragedy now stalks across the path of this family. On Jan. 8, 1824, Elijah committed suicide. The girl on whom he lavished his affection proved to be untrue to him. In his personal effects poems of his composition revealed what had been passing through his mind that prompted the rash act. The Administrator of his estate then sued Calvin, now gone to parts unknown, to collect the money due on the mortgage and attached the two pieces of land.

These must have been trying times for Sally, the mother, with her husband gone, one son a suicide, one son a runaway; the acres which Seth had cleared by hardest of labor were dwindling away; she was getting old. Only seven years since Seth had died, but such changes!

The next year Lemuel, now in Sutton, Vt., deeded Aaron, the youngest brother, all the land which was assigned to him by the Probate Judge, meaning the thirds and the house which the said widow now lived in.

Then Aaron went through the process of buying up the various owners. Polly sold to Aaron her  $4\frac{1}{4}$  acres, Polly and her mother in a joint deed conveyed to Aaron and quit-claimed all their rights and title to the two pieces of land Calvin bought, but which went back on the mortgage running to Elijah. It appears all the heirs of Elijah had to sign off again to Aaron. Accordingly, Mehitable now married to a Coolidge quit-claimed their rights to Aaron. Finally, Wd. Sally now living in Jay, N. Y., sold Aaron her thirds for \$200 and made her mark for the last time on a deed from her to be recorded in Baltimore. Strange that the man who was clerk of his church for twelve years should have a wife who when signing her name was obliged to make a cross. In those days, though, people did not believe in higher education for women.

When Aaron had gathered up all the loose ends, he sold them to Wd. Mary Preston of Weathersfield. This was Jan. 20, 1827, and included the widow's thirds.

Before writing this sketch the writer thought it lamentable that Seth Houghton, father of such a large family, should be alone in the Baltimore cemetery. After following the declining fortunes of the Wd. Sally, the writer is glad that Sally could join her many children living in Jay. Just what attracted all of them except Lemuel to this particular place is not clear. Jay is located in the northern Adirondacks on the banks of the Ausable River.

We now let the curtain fall on this Houghton family with the hope that Wd. Sally found comfort and joy in her last days with her children and grandchildren. She died on June 25, 1833, and was buried in Jay.

Benjamin Houghton

His son Elijah Houghton m. Mary Andrews

His son Seth Houghton b. 1757 m. Sally Wheeler b. Oct. 24, 1760  
(shoemaker)

His dau. Rebekkah Houghton m. Joseph Bruce in 1815 (son of Benj. Bruce, a shoemaker)



Jos. Brother—Benj. Bruce Jr. m. Philadelphia Wheeler (sister of Anna Wheeler Atherton), settled in Baltimore, at one time lived on Glynn place—served in Revolution.

Benj. Bruce Jr. m. Philadelphia Wheeler May 10, 1781  
 shoemaker d. Sept. 13, 1838  
 d. Sept. 11, 1839 age 80 years.  
 age 80 yrs.

Data on their children:

Joseph m. Rebekkah Houghton 1815. Their dau. Mary m. Daniel Blish of Jay, N. Y. and was Mrs. Purmont's mother.

Jonah Bruce m. Sally Houghton

Polly m. Oliver Cook (Polly grew up at her Aunt Anna Atherton's).

### The Preston Families (On Thomas and Basso Farms)

Women's names did not figure conspicuously on those first town records of Baltimore. Not until page 119 does the index to the land records show a woman's name, that of Widow Deliverance Burnam. But Deliverance did not add glory and prominence to her sex because she was a landowner. She and her family of seven children were the first family to be ordered out of town one Christmas Day. The writer has always had a feeling akin to pity for Widow Deliverance.

About halfway through the first index Phebe Gates' name appears. But Phebe was already in the limelight as the first pauper in town, her farm the Spaulding lot being sold to aid in her support, hence the land record.

As those first settlers grew old, if the men were the first to answer the roll call, the widow's thirds were made a matter of record, but only two such entries were made, Widow Houghton and Widow Betsey Woodbury. Two young women were deeded small plots of land; so only six different women are named in the index until we come to Mary Preston, page 329.

Unlike the widows above-mentioned Mary Preston was in no sense dependent upon charity nor was just waiting for the spark of life to be extinguished. Her husband dying when a young man of thirty-three the young widow was faced with the problem of providing for three children and one other posthumously, whom she named Zebina after his father.

The Prestons came from Connecticut to Weathersfield, Vt. We read in the cemetery records of Weathersfield that one Tirus Preston was drowned in his own mill pond in Ascutneyville May 30, 1798, in the 45th year of his age. His wife Esther died Apr. 25, 1830, age 71 and was buried there, too. That name Tirus was found among Widow Mary's children, generally simply spelled as Tyrus but occasionally spelled Tyrrhus—glorified spelling that.

We herewith insert such genealogical data as is available:

Zebina Preston  
Mansfield, Conn.

m. Mary T. Woods  
Pepperill, Mass.

b. 1794

d. July 6, 1823 age 33

d. Sept. 4, 1873 age 78  
yrs. 11 mos.

in Weathersfield, Vt.

in North Springfield.

#### Children

Tyrus or Henry T. d. Aug. 14, 1863 age 45 yrs. 7 mos.

Thomas b. 1819 d. 1901

Mary m. Patrick Bryant (Emma Arvilla m. Francis Preston  
Wayland m. Helen Bryant)

Zebina d. Nov. 10, 1851 age 27 yrs. 10 mos.

All were buried in North Springfield cemetery except Mary and husband.

If one refers to the sketch of the Houghton family, it will be seen that after the sudden death of father Seth in 1815 the fortunes of that family dwindled. Son Lemuel bought out the other heirs and there were ten of them! But as early as 1821 Lemuel sold all the farm to Jona. Woodbury and son except about 25 acres which included his mother's thirds of  $16\frac{1}{2}$  acres, then went to live in Sutton, Vt. In a few years Aaron, the youngest of the twelve Houghton children, was buying up the rights which his brothers and sisters held in their mother's thirds, a pitifully small amount of value to necessitate so many deeds and recordings. But after procuring eight deeds and getting them duly recorded, son Aaron had conveyed and confirmed to Mary Preston two certain tracts of land. One piece was the small parcel south of the road on which the small house stood. In 1828 this dwelling was appraised for only \$29.10. The other tract consisted of the Widow Sally Houghton's thirds of  $16\frac{1}{2}$  acres lying north of the road which then extended from what is now known as Shepard corner directly up to the foot of the mountain. The parcel extended 66 rods down this road to a barway "nigh the house." The site of the present schoolhouse and the road by it were on Wd. Sally's rights and were sold after Mary Preston owned it. The thirds were most irregular in their eastern boundary and Lemuel Houghton sold one piece of two acres to his brother Calvin and  $4\frac{1}{4}$  acres to his sister Polly which were tucked in somewhere between Sally's thirds and John Woodbury's land. The writer confesses to having spent some hours trying to fit Calvin's and Sally's irregular boundary on the east, all to no avail.

Evidently this purchase filled up the pockets or corners as Mary's tract or parcel was bounded by four straight lines, no crooks or turns. The number of acres was about 24 although not stated and the purchase price was \$255, date Jan. 20, 1827.

Not a very favorable outlook for a young widow with a brood of four children, the youngest not yet three years old. But Mary Preston was the type of pioneer woman whose achievements make an interesting story. Strong, courageous, self-reliant and evidently of keen business judgment, she began the restoration of the Hough-



ton farm to its original acreage. Her efforts were supplemented largely by son Thomas who was only eight years of age when his mother moved to Baltimore.

Wd. Mary Preston began where Sally Houghton left off. But poor Widow Sally had borne twelve children and reared eleven to adulthood. She had no education as her several conveyances show she made her cross. Yet her husband was the first clerk of the North Springfield Baptist Church. His legible handwriting compares most favorably with present day specimens—the pothook and hangar system that is now so evident. Those were the days when girls were not considered worthy or needful of education especially those girls likely to get married.

The late Willard Leland in speaking of the Wd. Mary Preston said that she could do all kinds of farm work except mow. They did not have mowing machines in 1827. The story has been handed down that at one time the town officials decided Wd. Mary should pay a poll tax (possibly because she was the head of the family.) Did she pray to be excused on account of her sex, or did she plead poverty? Not she, she exercised her rights as man's equal and demanded a privilege to work out her tax on the road as did the men. And she did that very thing. It is told that no further poll taxes were assessed against her; probably the men folks did not want a strong alert woman setting paces for them on road work.

The Houghton family was one of the first sketches to be written for this effort, this Preston family is the last one. During the five years which have intervened there is no trace or clue as to whatever became of the house Seth and Sally Houghton probably built and certainly occupied. At Seth's death Wd. Sally was to have ten feet off the south end of the barn and the privilege around the same, the use of the southwest corner room in the house with the northeast bedroom and a "privilege in the Kitchen and likewise a privilege of going to and from the well." In 1821 Sally forever quit-claimed all her rights in this house, but did not convey her rights in the barn. On the same day Lemuel quit-claimed to his mother all his right and title during her natural life in or unto that small house now standing on the south side of the road leading from Lemuel Houghton's to Edmund Batchelder's. The house evidently was between those two places. Two days before this swapping of houses, Lemuel had sold all the land he owned in town except the 25 acres which belonged, to his mother 16½, to sister Polly 4½, and brother Calvin 2 plus. He was still living here in 1822. When he sold to Woodbury, he reserved "24 feet off the barn to be taken off the south end of the same known by the name of the new part also all other privileges set off to Sally Houghton the widow."

In 1826 Wd. Sally and son Aaron deeded the Woodburys for \$5 all their right and title to all the land that the barn stood on that was set off to the Widow Sally Houghton as her dower and the privileges around said barn. Evidently, the barn was no longer standing, even if part of it was known as the new part.



But the Woodburys did not pay the five dollars, not they. They made a land swap. They began at Sally's southeast corner which was at the barway north of the house and ran a line southerly across the road six rods, thence easterly  $11\frac{1}{4}$  rods to a corner, thence northwardly . . . . . crossing the road to John and Earle Woodbury's land. Now John Woodbury's land bordered the road. It looked as if the Woodburys gained the land they coveted and Sally was deeded the public highway in exchange. In subsequent deeds we learn that the strip on which the small house sat was only three rods wide on the west and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  rods on the east end and eleven and one-fourth rods long. The buildings must have been close to the road.

For lack of full documentary evidence the writer is forced to blend her own memories extending back to the early 90's with some imagination. We think that first barn was built on the south side of the road, we also believe a second barn was built on the same site. The writer remembers the excitement that prevailed one day when the news was flashed around town that Thomas Preston's barn had been struck by lightning during a recent heavy shower and burned to the ground. It was told that that was the second barn on that very same location to be destroyed by lightning; so when Mr. Preston erected another new barn, he chose to build it on the same side of the road as the house, where it still stands.

It is possible that the Houghton house burned at the same time, as when that first grand list of 1828 was made out as the law then prescribed, no house was listed on that land except Mary Preston's for \$29.10 as previously mentioned.

We imagine Wd. Mary may have had to build a barn for herself. Her livestock in 1828 was limited to two cows and one 2-year-old. Soon she began to keep a few sheep, and we like to think that Mary Preston could with her own hands remove the wool from the sheep's back and straightway convert it into garments for her little brood. Knitting with her was a matter of stern necessity. She did not gain prominence or popularity by knitting in public for the Red Cross.

At first the writer was misled by the name Henry T. on the tombstone in Wd. Mary Preston's family lot. In a historical sketch of the town of Baltimore it was stated that Tyrrhus Preston always remained in Weathersfield and died there. It is puzzling to most people that parents will christen a child by one name but always will call him by another, generally his middle name. For instance, in the Piper family a number of people still remember an Eleanor Piper. There was a Mary E. who was mentioned in the disposal of her father's property, also a Mary E. buried in her father's lot. Eleanor taught the school, Eleanor wove woolen blankets, etc., but not one inkling as to a Mary E. A first cousin of these Piper children was contacted who assured the writer that there never was but one girl in that Piper family. There was a Phinehas Robinson born in Baltimore according to his



inscription on his monument, a Phinehas C. Robinson died, but while he was living, moving and having his being he was known to everyone as Carter Robinson.

We are led to believe that the Henry T. buried in North Springfield is the Tyrus H. who lived in Baltimore, paying his first poll tax in 1840, he and his brother Thomas taking the Freeman's Oath the same day. In 1840 Tyrus was taxed on a horse,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cow and \$100. In 1841 the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cow is lacking, but the horse and \$100 met the Argus-eyed listers. In 1842 Tyrus had personal property in excess of debts owing that was valued at \$280. In 1843 that amount was decreased to \$256, the next year \$250. It appears during these years that Thomas was away from home working and saving his money while Tyrus stayed with his mother.

The year 1845 found all three of Wd. Mary's boys at home, at least at listing time. They must have felt quite prosperous. Wd. Mary had \$103.50 in excess of debts owing to be taxed, Tyrus H. \$350, Thomas \$308, and young Zebina had \$29 to be taxed, but no poll was assessed against him.

In 1846 Tyrus and Zebina were not on hand to be taxed, and Thomas had purchased 48 acres of land so had little money left.

Two years later, all three boys were back on the grand list again. Thomas had 54 acres real estate taxed, Tyrus nothing but a poll tax, but young Zebina had \$200 to his credit. In 1851 Zebina's personal property was valued \$500. This spoke well for the young man's thrift and industry. He was listed for the last time, however, as he died the following November. Wd. Mary must have mourned deeply the loss of this son, the child of her days of affliction, whom the father did not live to see.

Tyrus was in Baltimore while his mother lived on the Glynn place. Unlike his brother Thomas he never bought any land in town except three acres in 1857 that cornered with the Glynn place. He was listed here in 1858, then seems to have left town. Tyrus, too, died when comparatively young, the date of his death being Aug. 14, 1863.

The only sister these boys had was known to all as "litle Mary Preston." She taught school several terms. She married Patrick Bryant and went to Warsaw, N. Y., to live. In 1843 she taught three months summer school for exactly \$11, and the town paid her mother \$8.43 for boarding her.

If the reader has a yen for putting jig saw puzzles together, he will be interested in the following account of how Wd. Mary and son Thomas almost put the old Houghton farm back together by making purchases from time to time.

First, Mary in 1839 bought from the Woodburys the land surrounding her house, which included what is now the Shepard orchard and east as far as the Frank Kendall road consisting of 9 acres 90 sq. rods for \$270. Later, she bought the road which led from the corner up to the mountain from the Woodburys. This included Mary's part of restoring the Houghton farm.



But Thomas, born in 1819, showed signs early of being industrious and thrifty. The year after he became of age he had \$100 money to be taxed. In 1842 he loaned Luke Harris \$108.45 and took a mortgage on Luke's farm, all that was east of the road. Luke paid it in one year. In 1846 Thomas bought of Alden Sherwin the 6 acres 52 rods in the northeast corner which Calvin Houghton once owned. Also in 1846 he bought of Earle Woodbury, now of Weathersfield, the 17 acres of land east of the highway and bounded on the south by Edmund Batchelder and northerly by Mary Preston.

Also in 1846 Thomas bought the so-called Martin lot of 6 acres, the Margaret Robinson dower (or "bower"), also in 1846 he purchased 30 acres on the mountain presumably "Tommy's flat" (not in the jig saw picture). The grand list of 1847 shows Thomas to be possessed of 54 acres.

In 1851 he was able to buy from Chauncey Davis the strip of pasture land lying between the old road leading to the mountain and the new road built past what is now Arthur Basso's farm. On Mar. 26, 1852, his mother bought the Glynn place from the Averills, paying \$1000 for the same. According to the late Willard Leland she finally took up her residence there. Dec. 30, 1852, Thomas bought from his mother all the land she then owned of the Houghton farm except what Wd. Mary sold the town in 1838 for the school building—"Beginning at a stake and stone in the swail and running 60 ft. on easterly side of the road."

In 1856 he bought 5 acres 149 rods of Sylvanus Newhall on mountain. (This piece will not fit into the jig saw puzzle either.) In 1866 Thomas yearned evidently for more mountain land as he was deeded 50 acres in Cavendish and Baltimore, paying \$450 for same. Here he might have become somewhat reckless, land value being very high right after the Civil War. In 1873 he was able to restore the pasture opposite Kendall's woods to the original picture, buying the same from Solon Bemis. This was the end of the restoration. Probably Thomas was never able to obtain a deed to that pasture land which was once the southwestern portion of the old Houghton farm, being the land south of the road leading to Arthur Basso's on which the Olney cottages are now built. We feel sure Thomas would have gladly welcomed the ownership of those acres.

In 1879 Thomas concluded his land deals by buying 40 acres from Carter Robinson. This was originally the part left of the Hastings farm. He paid \$350 for it and it adjoined his land on the east.

Thus it becomes apparent that Thomas Preston, son of Mary, was a true "son of the soil." His name was never indexed as a seller of land. That he was prosperous there is no doubt. According to the late Mrs. Philario Earle of Gassetts, Thomas built the house now standing on the farm in Civil War times. She was then living in town. This information may be corroborated by the grand list of 1863. We find estate appraisal was increased from \$1200 to \$1700. In 1862 his personal property after deductions for debts was \$437.60, in 1863 the amount was only \$17.75.



The Thomas Preston house was well-built and most pleasantly located. Those were the days when home builders took pride in front halls, and the one planned and built by Thomas and Adaline Preston must have afforded them satisfaction in the same degree as it excites admiration from those of the present day for whom such things hold an interest.

We expect Adaline just mentioned came into the picture about the time Thomas bought so much land—1846. Did they all live for a time in that small house on the south side of the road?

Adaline was the daughter of Levi Piper and was born and grew up on what is now the Erwin Converse place. She was indeed a happy choice and a splendid helpmate for young Thomas Preston, her parents being thrifty, industrious and God-fearing. To them seven children were born. The genealogical record of the Thomas Preston family follows:

Thomas W. Preston	m.	Adaline Piper
b. Weathersfield, Vt. 1819		b. Baltimore, Vt. 1820
d. Springfield, Vt. 1901		d. Springfield, Vt. 1901

#### Their Children—all born in Baltimore

Helen J. Preston b. May 31, 1847 d. 1927 unmarried; Emma A. Preston b. Nov. 12, 1849 m. Dr. Nathaniel Brooks Dec. 5, 1876; Francis Zebina Preston b. July 2, 1851 d. 1931; Abbie Preston b. 1853 d. 1891; Alice Preston b. 1856 d. 1939; Ida Preston b. Oct. 26, 1861 d. Aug. 20, 1864 from dysentery; Unnamed child—female—b. Nov. 10, 1865 d. Mar. 4, 1866.

It will be noted that girls predominated in the Thomas Preston family.

The Preston girls enjoyed unusual educational advantages for that period. Two oldest ones, Helen and Emma, attended the Wesleyan Seminary at Springfield, Vt., for two years, then attended the Kimball Union Academy at Meriden where they graduated. Emma taught school in Windsor and then in Charlestown, N. H., where she met Dr. Brooks and married him.

Helen Preston taught elementary schools to get money to go to school in Montreal to study French. She then taught in high schools and academies. She was preceptress at Burr and Burton Seminary in Manchester, Vt., and also filled the same position in Leland and Gray and Lebanon, N. H., High School under Mr. C. C. Boynton as principal. She taught Latin, French, Mathematics and English, and was very successful in her profession.

For a time she was principal of a girls school in Zanesville, Ohio, then went to California for her health. After its improvement she taught in Mr. C. C. Boynton's Training School for teachers for several years. That was before normal schools were established. In later life she engaged in real estate business in San Francisco.

The younger sisters, Abbie and Alice, also attended the Springfield Seminary but did not graduate. Abbie taught school for a

time in Springfield, then took nurse's training in a Providence, R. I., Hospital. She was practicing in that city when she passed away in her early thirties.

The writer has grateful memories of Abbie and the lady by whom she was employed for a time as a nurse-companion. Mrs. Arnold was a lady of wealth though possibly not so opulent as appeared to the writer at the time. A dam was built from one sand bank across to another in Mr. Preston's pasture, thereby forming a depression that made a suitable site for a small pond. A channel or ditch was dug that would convey the waste water from the school spring, also drain the nearby swamp into this hollow and lo! a pond was born sufficiently large to accommodate a rowboat provided by Mrs. Arnold which the pupils were allowed to use. Talk of recreational facilities! No school in these parts had anything to surpass ours. Of course, the pond froze over and furnished an excellent skating place in winter. The first Christmas-tree party the writer ever attended was promoted by Abbie Preston and her friend.

Alice Preston studied at Burr and Burton Seminary while her sister Helen taught there. She then went to New York City to study art and pursued her profession until her death in 1939.

The late Mrs. Fred G. Field characterized the Preston girls thus—Helen was the scholarly one, Alice the pretty one, and Abbie the friendly one. Of course Emma was the married one: so her public career was thereby shortened.

Emma had three sons: Nathaniel who followed in the footsteps of his father and is a practicing physician in Groton-on-Hudson; Lyman lives in the old Brooks' homestead and is a grain dealer; Philip a graduate of Dartmouth College who also took a course in Harvard School of Forestry.

Francis, the only son, married Emma Bryant who was as capable as she was attractive; Feb. 24, 1877, he purchased from Rollin Sherwin and wife the farm now owned by Arthur Basso, paying \$1206.46 for it. Sherwin had purchased not only this farm but the Martin Boynton place as well. The house built by Jona. Woodbury burned while owned by Sherwin but was rebuilt by him. He undertook a business of buying chickens and then dealing in dressed poultry, erecting the building at right angles with the woodshed as a storage place for them. Unfortunately, the attempt failed and Sherwin became bankrupt.

Francis like his father was most industrious. Both farms were cultivated rather intensively and kept a goodly number of cattle. With his big barn full of hay and other fodder, Francis made trips in the fall to eastern New York State and bought young cattle, dry cows or whatever he could feed through the winter at most profit. The Prestons had good apple orchards and plenty of small fruits for their own consumption. In 1898 Thomas owned 176 acres in Baltimore and Francis 160, over one-tenth of the total area of the town.



Francis in company with his brother-in-law Wayland Bryant, who moved to the Willard Leland place, bought apples by the carloads in all surrounding towns. In those days several carloads of them were produced in this immediate vicinity where now many of the farms do not produce apples enough for the use of the family.

Preston and Bryant bought the Graves place in 1902 and sold the wood and timber from it at great profit. They also bought the gristmill in North Springfield and did a thriving business there, which meant that Mr. Bryant left town in order to attend the business at the mill.

Francis Preston sold his farm here in Baltimore in 1899 to Abel Slayton, and Thomas and Adaline sold the same year to Clarence and Winnie Root. Both Preston families then moved to the E. J. Pierce farm on the Reservoir Road below North Springfield. Adaline Piper Preston had lived in Baltimore all her long life of 79 years.

Francis and Emma had three children. Ernest became a machinist also a real estate dealer, now living in Detroit. Edith the youngest child was a teacher for some time, and now lives with her brother Ernest in Detroit. To the younger son Guy came the experience of making a trip around the world. He and his wife went to Russia during World War No. 1 as a representative of the Windsor Machine Co. While in Petrograd one and a half years they witnessed the Revolution there. They were fortunate enough to get the last train out of Russia via Siberia, which meant they went around the world. Later he was sent to Japan where he and his wife lived about a year.

Guy died in 1943, lamented by a large number of friends and associates.

As generally happens, the Prestons were not only diligent in their own business, they were always helpful and interested in the welfare of the town. Thomas began his official career in 1846 as fence-viewer and every year after that for fifty-one years he was elected to some office. For about ten years he served as overseer of the poor and there were plenty of poor on the town of Baltimore at that particular time. The sister of a well-to-do money-lender had to be supported by the town, a son was paid by the town for boarding and caring for his own father. It was said to be cheaper to support them all together than separately, as the son and family were leaning on the town.

Thomas was often chosen as a selectman, sometimes he was treasurer, and in 1880 he represented the town in the legislature. He was superintendent of schools several years.

It appears that Rollin Sherwin was town clerk when he sold to Francis Preston and that the office was not moved when Sherwin left as Francis took over the duties thereof. He held all the important town offices at various times and in 1890 was elected representative to the General Assembly.



His experience gained in a small way in Baltimore no doubt fitted him for the larger responsibilities when, after moving to Springfield, he was elected selectman of that important town.

### Early History of West District

There is much evidence that the so-called West District was the last part to be settled in what is now the town of Baltimore. In the first town meeting, 1794, they voted that there should be a road from Wm. Briant's field, which we conclude was near what we now call the Martin lots at the back of Arthur Basso's house. Only two highway surveyors were elected at that meeting; later there were always three.

In the first division of school districts, 1794, only Peter Robinson was mentioned from the west side as being included in the North District. In 1797 under a new division of the school districts mention was made of Asa Robinson farm, Ephraim Martin farm, Luke Harris farm, Jonathan Boynton farm, Daniel Smith farm. The Asa Robinson farm was a small place back of Arthur Basso's on the "road under the mountain." The other places mentioned above are the Litch place, Slayton Kendall place, Henry Allen farm, and Glenn Olney farm, respectively. It is known that there was a rapid increase in the population of Baltimore very soon after its organization.

All those farms west of Old Shincracker are on what was Lot No. 39, the original right of Levi Webster. The tract consisting of about 312 acres was divided into three rectangular strips of approximately 100 acres each running east and west. The first one to be settled, also the most confusing one as to its ownership, was the northernmost one.

Dr. Aseph Fletcher of Cavendish appears to have been the owner's agent to sell and convey the land on Levi Webster's right. While Baltimore was still a part of Cavendish, or in 1792, Aseph sold this northern 100 acres to Joseph Atherton. Nov. 2, 1793, just after Baltimore was set off, Joseph sold this tract to Asa and Peter Robinson of Winchendon, Mass. On Nov. 9, just a week later Peter bought 50 acres on the right of John Noble, "beginning at a stake and stone on the North west corner of Levi Websters right"; so now he owned 150 acres in Baltimore, quite a land owner. But on Nov. 29, 1793, Peter Robinson sold Stephen Briant 37½ acres off the eastern end of the Levi Webster right. That parcel of land was to be divided and sub-divided, sold and resold, about as many times as any tract in Baltimore. Stephen owned it only a short time before selling it to Daniel Smith who in 1795 sold it to Luke Harris of Alstead, N. H. This land lay east of the road now leading by the Litch lots.

On Feb. 1, 1796, Dr. Aseph Fletcher deeded Luke Harris the 104 acres adjoining on the southerly side of land he had sold Joseph Atherton. On the same day Aseph sold Daniel Smith the one



hundred acres on the southerly line of Luke Harris, which land extended to Chester line.

Luke Harris occupied the middle farm a number of years, the southern one afforded an abiding place for Daniel Smith a few years; he was there at the taking of the 1800 census, with five in his family. He soon sold to David Johnson who in 1803 sold to Joshua Leland. This family occupied the farm for a space of 63 years.

We will leave the Harris and Leland families to dwell in peace upon their acres while we follow the fortunes of the occupants of the northern section.

Jan. 18, 1795, Father Asa sold son Peter all his share in the land. Peter was living in Baltimore then. But on May 18, 1796, Asa bought back a wedge-shaped piece containing 13 acres, one side running 67 rods on the north line of the Levi Webster right.

Dec. 2, 1796, Peter and Jane Robinson now of Weathersfield sold Ephraim Martin 50 acres on the west end of the Levi Webster land, also the fifty acres cornering with it, on the right of John Noble, presumably. Peter and Jane must have had some sort of habitation to shelter their large family as they had six children upon their arrival and another son, Dean Tyler, was born to them in Baltimore June 4, 1794. Jane also signed the deed which would indicate that she was deeding away her homestead.

A genealogy on this Robinson family unexpectedly came into the writer's possession, which will be included herewith. This family with its nine children in all settled in the neighboring town of Weathersfield. It seems possible that some day some of their descendants might be interested to visit the homes of their ancestors, or glad to obtain information along genealogical lines.

That same year, 1796, Ephraim's oldest child Sally married Jonathan Boynton and on Dec. 19, 1797, Ephraim sold young Boynton 50 acres off the western end of what he owned, a most irregular-shaped tract of land. This land included the site of the present buildings occupied by Henry Allen, as that place has long been known as the Boynton farm.

It seems likely that the house now standing was built by Jonathan and Sally Boynton. It bears evidence of being one of the oldest houses in town, extremely wide floor boards, corner posts, etc. It might have been built several years before the grand list of 1828 when it was appraised for \$126.00. No increase was made in subsequent real estate valuation on the Boynton farm that would indicate that a new house had been erected thereon.

In 1798 Ephraim Martin sold Peter Cooper Robinson of Weathersfield the remaining 50 acres east of the Boynton tract. Robinson sold to Nahum Duncan of Weathersfield (the village of Perkinsville was formerly called Duncansville after said Duncan.) He in turn sold to Joel Crane of Weathersfield July 4, 1799, and Joel Crane to Benjamin Litch of Lunenburg, Mass., in 1800, 50 acres for \$400. It seems safe to conclude that Benj. Litch erected

the buildings on the Litch lots as neither Crane nor Duncan lived in Baltimore during their ownership.

We do not know where Ephraim Martin did live unless he and his large family lived with the young Boyntons. He sold the 50 acres to Robinson for only \$222.98, which price would indicate that the buildings, if any, had little value. Ephraim Martin was still living in town; in 1801 he was elected highway surveyor, and was on the list of Freemen in 1803 as was Ephraim Martin Jr., evidently his son.

Asa Robinson did not leave Baltimore when his son Peter did. Jan. 25, 1796, Asa and Jona. Woodbury jointly bought 30 acres of land for 30 pounds of William Briant. Two years later Asa sold Jona. Woodbury all his right and title to said land for \$16.75, but the deed was not recorded. It appears that Asa built a house on this land which was back of Arthur Basso's and that he died there. May 15, 1800, Peter Robinson, administrator of the estate of Asa Robinson, sold Benj. Litch the three-cornered piece of land containing 13 acres. He also sold John B. Curtis, "cordwiner," two pieces of land back of Basso's, but he had to pay Jona. Woodbury \$30 before selling it to clear the title. Curtis did not live here long, for in 1801 he sold these lots to Ephraim Martin for \$133.30 with the following proviso: "Be it remembered and forever understood that the said Margaret Robinson (widow of Asa) is to have and occupy the last mentioned piece of land set for her dower during her natural life." We doubt if Margaret actually lived there. The place was conveyed two or three times after Asa's death, as late as 1819 the proviso was incorporated into a deed. It is probable that Ephraim Martin lived there; to this day it is known to the older inhabitants as the Martin lot. In 1804 a deed mentions the road leading from Ephraim Martin's to Luke Harris'. In 1810 Ephraim sold the land with the house on it to Seth Houghton on what is now the James Shepard place, and it has always remained a part of that farm. The other parcel of land was purchased by Jona. Woodbury.

### Benjamin Litch

The story has been handed down that Benj. Litch and his wife Jerusha made the trip to Baltimore from Lunenburg, Mass., on an ox sled, following a trail by marked trees. It must have been difficult to guide and direct a yoke of oxen through a wild country, but perhaps marked trees meant more to oxen than would the guide boards of today. Probably the trip was more tiresome than perilous.

Benjamin received the deed of his new home from Joel Crane on Apr. 4, 1800, 50 acres being conveyed to him. The next month Benjamin bought the wedge-shaped piece of 13 acres that Asa Robinson owned at the time of his death, on the north line of the original right of Levi Webster. In 1803 Lyman, their first and only child, was born. In 1808 he was obliged to mortgage the home



place to Nahum Duncan but was able to have the mortgage discharged the next year.

In 1815 Benjamin bought ten acres on the east side of the highway leading past his house. The northern boundary of it was only one rod and 6 links (about 48 inches) then south 67 rods, west 46 rods, then north 45 degrees east about 81 rods, the road forming the western boundary. In 1823 Benj. sold back to Reuben the northern tip of this tract containing 27 sq. rds. and Reuben deeded Benj. a strip on the east 59 rods by  $11\frac{1}{2}$  links or 27 sq. rds., an even swap. On the very same day Reuben sold Parkman Davis the northern end of what he had left, which gave Parkman that much disputed corner claimed at least by three different parties to the writer's knowledge.

September 3, 1817, Benjamin Litch, Esqr., "bought a certain track or parcel" of land from John and Sally Bigelow containing 55 acres for \$700. This farm was what has been known for years as the Glynn Place. The very next day Benjamin and wife Jerusha deeded this farm to Joseph Atherton. Just why John and Sally did not deed directly to Joseph is a matter for conjecture. After all, it meant additional recording and extra pennies for the long-suffering poorly paid town clerk. Perhaps Benjamin reaped some satisfaction from being a seller of land as well as buyer, a realtor so to speak.

Benj. Litch was the town clerk in 1823; so he could afford to swap pieces of land so far as the cost of recording was concerned. Late in the year 1831 Benjamin made his last land transaction. He and his wife Jerusha deeded all the land they owned in Baltimore, about 75 acres, to their son Lyman, also a large tract they owned in Cavendish, beginning—on Jonathan Woodbury's west line in Baltimore "at a beach saddle marked E A". Lyman gave a bond for \$500 and a deed in which he agreed to support and maintain his parents through their natural lives. The provision and stipulations of the indenture were exactly the same as those made the following year between young Martin Boynton and his parents on the adjoining farm. Lyman was evidently now married to Prudence Chaplin of Baltimore as their oldest child was born Feb. 5, 1832.

Benjamin did not have long to live after deeding his property to his son. Possibly impaired health was one of his reasons for so doing. Late in 1833 they were settling his estate, and in April of the next year Martin Boynton bought the Litch farm. The place seems to have been heavily mortgaged.

Until 1841 Martin Boynton paid taxes on the Litch house, but thus far we have no information as to the final disposal of the buildings on the place. Practically all the homesteads in Baltimore occupied at the present day had the first buildings thereon replaced by what were probably more substantial and convenient ones. Probably those first buildings were what the first settler had the time and ability to erect, either a log cabin or later a cheap frame house.



Jerusha Litch's maiden name was Divol. She might have been related to Elizabeth Divol, who married Jona. Boynton 3rd. She lived to the ripe old age of 85 yrs. 9 mo. 10 days, spending her declining years in the home of her son Lyman Litch, on what is now the Hammond place. She died Feb. 1, 1862, of consumption, surviving her husband at least 29 years. She came into Baltimore as a young woman only 24 years old. It appears that Lyman was her only child, at least no other names of Litch appear on the records. He was born in Baltimore 1803, and it appears from the records that he lived here all his days except the years 1834-1835-1836 when he and Prudence lived in Bethel, Vt.

Benj. Litch was interested and helpful in town affairs. In 1803 he served his apprenticeship as hayward. Early in the game he was elected constable and collector and evidently proved his fitness for the duties of that office as he was re-elected to that capacity four times. But in 1809 Benj. was the constable who served the precepts on six families to depart said town of Baltimore, some of them being families who had lived in town several years. Either Benjamin was anxious to be relieved of such unpleasant duties or else his popularity dropped below the zero mark in 1810 because he was not elected to a single office. Time evidently healed all wounds as he became highway surveyor in 1811. In 1823 he was chosen to fill the important role of town clerk; in 1824 he was not only re-elected town clerk but was honored as the choice of the voters as selectman, highway surveyor, sealer of weights and measures. He continued as selectman until 1830 when he seems to have relinquished public duty.

Lyman and his young wife continued to live in town until the old Litch homestead was sold to Martin Boynton. In those days, as at present, when a farmstead was sold to the owner of a contiguous farm, it usually meant the disintegration of the former place; the buildings were neglected or moved away and the ploughlands allowed to revert to pasturage and woodland.

Lyman might have remained on his father's place had it not become so heavily mortgaged. In Dec. 1839 we find he purchased from Jona. Woodbury the entire Jona. Woodbury farm for \$1600, mortgaging the same to Hannah Ives of Baltimore for the entire purchase price, Jona Woodbury Jr. signing the note with him as security. Let us note in passing that in 1839 Lyman was elected town representative.

Mar. 30, 1846, Lyman sold the Woodbury farm to Jeremiah Wood and the Luke Harris family then occupied it. David Chaplin, Prudence Litch's father, had died in 1842. Sooner or later, Prudence and Lyman moved to the Chaplin property "on the Governor's farm so called." In David's will he stipulated that his daughter Prudence should have the farm at the decease of her mother. In 1845 Lyman was elected highway surveyor of the West District at town meeting. In 1847 he was duly elected highway surveyor of the South District, so we may reasonably conclude that it was between those dates that Lyman and Prudence moved



down to live with Widow Lydia Chaplin, probably soon after selling the Woodbury farm.

Their children Betsey and Emily were born in Bethel, Vt. Lydia and Mary were born after their parents moved back to Baltimore.

Luke Harris Family  
(*Slayton Kendall Place*)

On the first page of Book 1 of the Baltimore Land Records we find a "true Coppy" of the original deed whereby Luke Harris was deeded "a pece of land containing thirty six acres and lyes on the east end of a Hundred acre lot No. thirty ninth." This land was east of what is now known as the Litch lots, and the deed was executed Oct. 14, 1795.

Evidently Luke was well-pleased with his purchase as on Feb. 1st of the following year he bought the middle tract of 104 acres on Levi Webster's right, paying Dr. Aseph Fletcher forty-four pounds for the same.

We may rest assured that Luke had to clear his own land and erect his own buildings. Mr. Fletcher was the old-time busy "physition" of Cavendish and acted solely as an agent in disposing of what was or had been the original right of Levi Webster. Luke and Daniel Smith on the farm to the south made their purchases the same day. Harris was to be a resident of Baltimore the remainder of his days.

Four years after his coming to Baltimore, or in 1800, the census was taken which shows that Luke had a family of three boys under ten; there was a girl between 10 and 16 in the family of whom we know nothing further. The boys were Levi, Luke Jr., and Daniel, the latter born in Baltimore.

As previously noted, this portion of Baltimore was all settled about the same time. Jona. Boynton came to town in 1797 and Benj. Litch in 1800. From that earliest grand list available, year 1828, we find the Luke Harris and the Benj. Litch houses appraised for \$116.40 each, the Boynton house for \$126.10 while the one Daniel Smith probably built was valued only \$106.70. Ten dollars difference in the appraisal of anything in those days represented quite a difference in actual value.

In 1803 Luke sold Reuben Bemis on the Geo. Cook place a plot of land containing just one acre from his southeast corner. Subsequent records state that this land contained a spring of water which Reuben desired for his pasture.

In 1804 Luke sold Reuben Bemis twenty-five acres off the northern end of what he had bought in 1795. In 1818 Luke Jr. was elected hayward at town meeting; so we know he had become of age. In 1819 his father deeded him eleven acres bordering on John Woodbury's land or what was left of that 36 acre tract. They must have discovered there still remained a little patch as in 1822 Luke Jr. bought from his father a little piece cornering with Jona-

than Boynton's land, 4 rds. by 7 rds. by 4 rds. by 6 rds. or 26 sq. rds. How carefully they considered their metes and bounds in those days! Every little corner was taken into account.

Now brother Daniel had evidently become of age and had ambitions to become a land owner too. He took the Freeman's Oath in 1821, and in 1822 the two brothers bought a 40 acre tract out of the northeast corner of Joshua Leland's farm adjoining their father's land on the south. In 1824 Luke Jr. deeded Daniel one-half of the 11 acres also of the 26 sq. rd., so the two brothers now owned everything in partnership.

Nov. 24, 1824, Luke Jr. took unto himself a wife, Relief Wood, sister of Jeremiah Wood of Springfield. They had two children, Betsey and Laura. In 1831 Luke Harris Sr. for \$10 deeded son Luke all his right and title to "a certain tract, piece or parcel of land described as following viz: Seventy one and a half acres to be laid off from the north side of the tract of land that Dr. Aseph Fletcher deeded to me Feb. 1st, 1796 to be taken off by a line drawn across the whole of said tract east and west parallel with the north line of said tract and far enough north of the south line of said tract to leave on the south side of said line so drawn thirty two and a half acres and no more" ( $71\frac{1}{2}$  and  $32\frac{1}{2}$  equals 104 acres. *What about the acre in the very southeast corner sold to Reuben Bemis. A. M. P.*)

This 29th day of April 1831 was to be a "day of deeds." That same day Luke Sr. deeded son Daniel for \$10 the  $32\frac{1}{2}$  acres above described—"except one acre I have heretofore sold Reuben Bemis." Daniel for \$10 deeded brother Luke all his right and title in the 26 sq. rds. also in the west half of the 11 acre piece of land (more subdivision). This made three deeds. Luke Jr. deeded Daniel his his rights in the 40 acres bought of Leland.

But Luke Jr. did not get all right and title to the  $71\frac{1}{2}$  acres for just the \$10. Indeed not. He agreed to "well and faithfully and truly keep and perform the conditions of a bond by me executed to the said Luke and Leah (the mother) in the penal sum of \$10000 and shall maintain and support the said Luke and Leah according to their degree and standing in society in sickness and in health with all necessary comfortable and convenient houseroom, lodging, food, physick, nursing, medical attendance, wood and washing etc." This made five deeds and a bond all made out that same day.

It was in this same year that Benj. Litch made over his property to his son Lyman under the same conditions as above; the next year, 1832, Jonathan Boynton did likewise in favor of his son Martin. Those three families were nestled there behind Old Shincracker within calling distance of one another. But Benj. Litch did not live long after deeding away his property.

Neither did poor young Daniel Harris. The records reveal that he had a house by himself valued in 1828 at \$87.30. No doubt this explains the cellar hole very near the road and across from the sand knoll south of what is now the Slayton Kendall place. The



story of the Daniel Harris family is short and extremely pathetic. Daniel died Sept. 22, 1832, aged 33 yrs. His little daughter Sarah Loret died the next year July 15, 1833, aged 17 months. She was about eight months old when her father died. That same year Oct. 29, 1833, Hannah Beal Harris, wife of Daniel, died in Chester, Vt., aged 31 years. 4 mo. 2 days.

No further mention was made of the house which was probably built by Daniel only to be occupied by him so short a time. Luke may have shared his barn with Daniel as the livestock was listed in both their names.

Levi Harris, then living in Chester, served as administrator of his brother Daniel's estate. In Nov. 1833 he sold the easterly half of the 11 acre piece of land to Earle Woodbury whose farm bounded this tract on the east. The next month he sold the 40 acre parcel east of the road to Joshua Leland and Jonathan Boynton for \$296.55. Soon Leland bought out Boynton; so the 40 acres were restored to the original Joshua Leland farm. The following June Levi sold Jona. Woodbury Jr., for \$210.75, 34 acres 88 sq. rds. of land on the west side of the road bounded on the south by land of Joshua Leland, west by land of Stephen Robinson (Spaulding lot) north by land of Luke Harris. The cellar hole was on this piece.

This completed the sales of the real estate belonging to Daniel Harris. Probably very few people now living have ever heard of the Daniel Harris family. As Hannah survived her husband, that property probably went to her heirs.

Thus far it would seem that Luke and Leah were fairly prosperous. It is worthy of note that he had kept his original 104 acres intact, and it does not appear that Luke Sr. ever mortgaged his property. During the first years, few if any mortgaged deeds are found on the records. The young men of those days must have struggled to acquire savings that would enable them to pay cash for their land, else how did they acquire the coveted acres?

Luke Sr. died July 13, 1837, aged 74 years, so he was about 33 when he came to Baltimore. He was buried in No. Springfield cemetery.

Only Luke Jr. was now left to carry on. He had no stalwart son to help him as did his father and does not seem to have been over prosperous. The three Harrises kept rather more cattle than did the Boyntons and Litches but thirteen head was the most they kept. The number decreased after Daniel and Luke Sr. died. The Harrises kept a few sheep, probably enough for their own needs. By 1843 they had increased their sheep to 17, which was not on a par with Leland who now had 185 or Boynton and others owning pastures on the mountain.

In 1838 Luke Jr. sold Jona. Woodbury 8 acres beginning at the N. W. corner of Harris' home farm. Then begins a series of mortgages—Oct. 28, 1842, mortgage to Wm. Jarvis for \$75. About a month later Dec. 2, 1842, mortgages to Thomas Preston \$108.48. To pay Preston on Dec. 2, 1843, he mortgaged to Wm. Jarvis for



\$225. It can be seen that Luke was steadily losing ground so far as debts were concerned.

May 2, 1845, Luke sold all his land to Joseph W. Leland for \$1000. He had to buy his mother's mortgage, paying her \$200 for it, but that left him quite an equity in the place.

Lyman Litch had bought and moved up to the Woodbury farm. Like Lyman, Luke, too, apparently aspired to live on higher ground. Accordingly Luke now living in Springfield bought the old Woodbury place from Lyman Litch.

The property was conveyed by a peculiar indenture. Luke was deeded four undivided tenth parts of the farm. It would seem that Relief, Luke's wife, had some money of her own or a gift or legacy coming to her. At any rate we find that Lyman Litch deeded Jeremiah P. Wood, brother of Relief, six undivided tenth parts of the land with the following proviso: "in trust, nevertheless and to and for the following intents and uses and no other, to wit, to pay or deliver to Relief Harris wife of Luke Harris of said Springfield or to such person as she shall from time to time designate and appoint all the rents issues and proceeds thereof for her sole and separate use and without any control or disposal of the same by her said husband and in case the said Relief shall at any time elect to have the same sold and conveyed to any other person that the said Jeremiah P. Wood then and in that case to sell and convey the same to such person as she shall in writing direct and appoint and to hold the proceeds thereof in trust as aforesaid, it being understood that in all cases the sale and the separate receipt of the said Relief for the proceeds aforesaid shall be good and sufficient discharge of the said Jeremiah P. Wood in the premises."

Evidently the Harrises lived here ten years. On Apr. 1, 1856, Relief requested Jeremiah to sell her six-tenths of the farm, which he did to Fox Sherwin for \$700 thereby making a profit of \$100. Luke also made \$100 on his four-tenths.

Mar. 20, 1857, James and Amanda Bates of Weathersfield deeded Relief Harris and her heirs the little farm partly in Weathersfield and partly in Baltimore which is still known to everyone in this locality as the "Harris place." Luke died there Sept. 13, 1869, aged 76 yrs. 4 mo. 13 days, disease of the liver.

In 1893 the writer's father, Fred Olney, bought the land. The house had been demolished, but the barn and well-house remained. It was with keen delight that the writer surveyed often her father's possessions. Although the place had been sadly neglected for probably fifteen years, it still bore traces of a pleasant little home some one had loved and cherished. A thrifty little apple orchard of grafted fruit had been set out back of the house. Grapes, plums, pears and currants, even cranberries still ripened there each in their season. Some of the varieties were not what you see pictured today in fruit catalogues, but a healthy child's appetite at ten years does not need so much whetting as the modern breakfast cereal ads would lead one to believe.



Of course, all the old-fashioned flowers grew there in abundance, roses, lilacs, orange lilies. The premises were not in sight of other buildings and were situated a bit off the lonely highway, yet sufficiently convenient to the village to attract berry pickers, pilferers in general. The writer was quite alert in harvesting the fruitful increase of the soil ahead of the would-be pilferers.

Betsey and Laura moved to North Springfield where they lived for some years, or until they died, in the house nearly opposite Edward Kendall's. They were members and very regular attendants of the Baptist Church in that village. Betsey wore a brown bonnet, Laura a black one with a black ostrich feather on it. They did not resemble each other in looks or disposition. Betsey was the dominant, independent, intellectual type. Once the writer remarked to Ella Graves that she thought Laura looked much smarter than Betsey. "What makes you think that?" Ella asked. "Because her eyes are black and look much brighter," the writer explained. "Eyes are very deceiving," Ella declared. "Betsey has a good mind and was one of the very best school teachers I ever had. Laura was never very scholarly." According to Miss Bertha Field, Betsey had excellent command of English. Laura was more lovable, domestic and less domineering. Jeremiah's daughter provided the Harris girls with the house they occupied in their declining years. Betsey died Jan. 22, 1904, aged 78 and Laura that same year Nov. 8, aged 71 yrs. 11 mos. It was well that one did not survive the other for long. They were the last of their family and dependent on each other. No one mentioning them today ever speaks of one and not the other.

Two anecdotes have come to the writer through the late Isaline A. Davis. Betsey used to tell that when her forbears first came to Baltimore there was no fruit raised. The cleared land had to be used to raise the more essential grains and vegetables. It seems strange to think that there was a time when Baltimore had no apple trees, but such is a fact. The Harris family used to long for some food that would possess tartness so her Grandmother at times would make a sorrel pie. Does not the thoughts of that "set your teeth on edge?"

Betsey also used to tell of the first occasion a Christmas tree was held in this locality. It took place in the Congregational Church in Springfield and the whole Harris family made great effort to be present. A tall beautiful spruce tree graced the front of the church with one tin star near its top by way of decoration, no other decorations anywhere, no festivities, no gifts and no special program but a long, long sermon to drive home the Christmas lesson. Compare that with modern Christmas celebrations!

Eva Stevens Johnson of Chester tells this one: When the Stevens family lived on the little farm below, they sometimes went up to the Harrises to spend the evening, one of the good old-fashioned customs that used to prevail everywhere. It was in those days that kerosene lamps were coming into use, and the Stevens family took their new kerosene lantern to light their path-



way. On arriving they took the lantern into the house and set it on the table, thinking the Harris women would enjoy the better light it gave than did the candles they still used. They were always knitting or sewing during the evenings. After a brief space Betsey asked Mrs. Stevens if she would please set that lantern outside as the light was too strong for her eyes. Several have remarked upon hearing the anecdote, "That sounds just like Betsey." If she yearned for conveniences she could not afford, she was too proud to let her desires be known.

Friends of the Harris girls who are still living had told the writer that Betsey often referred to her father in conversation, giving her hearers the impression that he was intellectual and an upstanding man in his community. So it was somewhat disappointing to learn that neither Luke nor his father evinced great interest in town affairs, seldom held any office of importance. Occasionally they served as highway surveyors or listers, twice Luke Jr. was selectman, and often they were elected fence-viewers. Once Luke Jr. was voted "fensvior," but was absent and did not qualify. Perhaps he failed to recognize the animal with that spelling.

But when you look at the school-meeting records you become aware that matters of education held a distinct interest for them. With Joshua Leland, Martin Boynton and Luke Harris living in that end of the town, it might be said that the intelligentsia of Baltimore centered in the West District for a time.

Levi Harris, the oldest brother, was the one active in town affairs. He lived on the Earle Woodbury farm and must have hired it as he never was deeded any land in Baltimore. So it is because of his interest and ability in town as well as school affairs that we know Levi Harris ever lived in town over one hundred years ago.

In September 1836 Earle Woodbury still lived in town as he presided over the Freeman's meeting held that month. But on Dec. 31, 1836, Levi Harris acted as moderator at a special town meeting.

At the March meeting, 1837, he presided as moderator; in 1838 he was elected town clerk, first lister, highway surveyor for West District, auditor to settle with town treasurer. In 1839 he was chosen on committee to settle with the town treasurer, in 1840 overseer of poor and petit juror but refused to take his oath as overseer. He was elected representative to the General Assembly at the Freeman's meeting held in September 1840. This was the grand finale for Levi as Earle Woodbury sold his farm in December and Levi moved away.

Levi's progeny are the only living descendants of Luke Harris Sr. The school census of 1838 shows that Levi had three children in school. A fourth child named Piam Oliviam was born July 10, 1837, who with his wife is buried in the Plains Cemetery near Perkinsville. Some of Levi's descendants are to be found in Indiana.

Luke Jr. and his wife Relief and his mother Leah are doubtless buried in the family lot in North Springfield, but no headstones mark their graves. Betsey and Laura each have one.



## Leland Family

In preparing the Leland family sketch it was with avidity that the writer grasped the genealogy of that family compiled and published by the late Oscar Hopestill Leland, himself a native of Baltimore. It is probably true that some of the family genealogies appearing in this production are the first and only attempt ever made thus to gather and arrange the genealogical data obtainable.

The records and traditions of the Leland family may end with the compilation of Oscar Leland, but nearly one hundred years ago, 1859, the *History of the Leland Family in America* was compiled and was said to be the first genealogy of any family published in the United States. Probably the fact that the Leland family could trace its ancestry to royalty by several lines was a strong incentive to such research. And why not?

Caleb Leland, the first of that name to settle in Baltimore, through his mother Sarah Warren was of royal descent. She was the 23rd generation from Charlemagne in one line and the 29th generation from the same ancestor in another line. She was also a descendant of King Alfred the Great, King William the Conqueror, also the 26th generation from Hugh Capet, King of France and the ancestor of thirty-two French Kings. King Edward VII of England was also a descendant of all these ancestors.

The common ancestor of the New England Lelands was Hopestill Leland who came from England and settled in Weymouth, Mass., probably as early as 1624. His only son Henry was the progenitor of all the Lelands. Following Hopestill and Henry were Ebenezer, father of ten children; his son, James, father of eleven children, among whose descendants were: Elder John Leland, a Baptist elder of national reputation; Rev. Baron Stow with degrees from Columbia College, Brown University, editor of the first Baptist periodical published in the United States, also pastor of Baptist Churches in Boston for 35 years; also Leland Stanford, Governor of California and founder of Leland Stanford University.

The son of James in whom we are most interested was Phineas. In 1752 he married Sarah Warren for his second wife. To them were born ten children.

Phineas b. 1753 d. 1820—lived in Grafton, Mass.

Eleazer b. 1755 d. 1827—lived in Grafton, Mass. His son was a lawyer, member of the House of Representatives, Speaker of same, also State Senator four terms and elected President of Senate the last term.

Joseph b. Dec. 30, 1757 d. 1839 at Saco, Me. His daughter Elizabeth became the wife of Rev. Nathan Lord, D. D., President of Dartmouth College at Hanover, N. H., over thirty years.

David W. b. July 18, 1758 (?) d. 1832 in Grafton. His son Phineas was elected to state Senate and served as President of the same.

Thomas b. Aug. 16, 1760—settled in Chester, Vt. d. 1830.

Sarah b. Oct. 17, 1763—settled in Owego, N. Y. d. 1824.

Caleb b. Aug. 31, 1765 m. Lakin Willard, settled in Baltimore, Vt. d. Aug. 28, 1843.

Joshua (Caleb's twin) b. Aug. 31, 1765 m. Thankful Sherwin in Chester, Vt. d. in 1829.

Lydia b. 1767 m. Jonathan Whipple, settled in Springfield, Vt. d. 1841.

Deliverance b. 1770 m. Andrew Shepard, settled in Chatham, Conn., where she had many descendants d. 1806.

Father Phineas died Oct. 16, 1773, when Deliverance was only three years old. He made his will the preceding May, "being sick and weak in body but of Perfect mind Memory Thanks be Given unto God."

By the terms of his will he provided for his widow by bequeathing her fifty-three pounds six shilling and eight pence, "all my Household goods and moveables . . . . . my Riding Chair and Tackling," room in the house and cellar, the use of two good cows and a horse the same to be kept for her by her sons Phineas and Eleazer. His wife was to be "provided with ten pounds wool, also flax, Beaf, Pork, Indian Corn, Rye, Turnips, beans, Potatoes, one bushel & a half of malt, apples, Green Summer sause she shall need for herself and Two Barrels of Cyder." Sons Phineas and Eleazer, themselves lads of only 20 and 18 years, were to provide all these things, also full and sufficient firewood, cut at her door. Sarah was to have "free Liberty to pass and Repass from and to the well and to use what water she shall please."

The two sons mentioned above were to have all their father's real and personal estate excepting what he had given their mother, but the will stated that they were to provide "suitable meat Drink, washing and Lodging and apperal & physick if need be for Thomas, Sarah, Caleb, Joshua, Lydia and Deliverance untill they come to the age of fourteen years each and I will that they be under the care and charge and government of my wife untill they come to that age." (It would appear that after that each child was expected to earn his own way). Then as an afterthought Phineas added, "I will that Phineas and Eleazer find my wife two pairs of shoes yearly as long as she remains my widow." We will state in this connection that Widow Sarah married again Apr. 4, 1776, had one more child and lived until Mar. 21, 1812. Phineas and Eleazer did not have to "find shoes" for her for so very long.

The other five sons were willed 66 pounds, 13 shillings, 4 pence apiece and the three daughters 40 pounds each.

It was fortunate that the father had so much property to leave, but the oldest children in those large families had to assume heavy burdens and responsibilities in the event of the death of either parent.

While Lakin Willard Leland's ancestry does not trace back to royalty as did Caleb's, nevertheless she was the descendant of



prominent, intellectual men and women of whom her progeny may well be proud.

Major Simon Willard was the first emigrant to come to America from Kent County, England, in May 1634. The name of Willard has been known in England over nine hundred years, being recorded five times in the Domesday Book compiled by order of William the Conqueror, a survey of lands in England.

Major Simon Willard was baptized Apr. 7, 1608. He founded the town of Concord, Mass., was a close friend of John Eliot the Indian missionary, was a judge in the Superior, Supreme and Admiralty Courts. Among his descendants were Rev. Samuel Willard, pastor of Old South Church, Boston, also President of Harvard University; Joseph Willard also President of that University; and Frances E. Willard founder of the World's W. C. T. U.

Simon Willard married three times:

1st—Mary Sharp, of England, mother of seven children, including Susannah Willard Johnson.

2nd—Elizabeth Dunster, sister of Henry Dunster, first President of Harvard College.

3rd—Mary, sister of Elizabeth and Henry—ten children—among whom was—

Benjamin b. 1675 m. Sarah Lakin b. Feb. 4, 1662 d. 1732 last surviving son of Simon Willard. They had six children among whom was—

Joseph Willard b. 1693 m. Martha Clark, settled in Grafton, Mass. He was one of the petitioners to purchase this place from the Indians, was given the chief seat in the meeting house and became a Major in the Revolution. He died in 1774. His wife Martha died June 3, 1794, at the age of 100 years. She was mother of the first white child born in Grafton. They had 12 children (one every two years) among whom was—

Joseph Willard b. April 17, 1720 m. Hannah Rice b. 1730 of Worcester, Mass. He became one of the leading men in the town and had the chief seat in the church. They had ten children. When their grandson Oscar Hopestill Leland compiled his genealogy, the sum aggregate of the descendants of these ten children numbered 1640, not including his grandmother Lakin's progeny which were quite numerous. His daughter—

Lakin Willard b. Dec. 19, 1769 m. Caleb Leland of Grafton Apr. 8, 1789.

In his will drawn up March 16, 1799, we find that Joseph Willard willed his daughters Molly, Lyon, Sarah Lyon, Martha Wood, Elizabeth Harrington, Virtue Wadsworth, Lakin Leland \$100 each. The oldest son, Thomas R., graduated from Harvard College 1774, joined the Revolutionary Army as commissary and died in 1775. Phebe, who married Samuel Richards was dead, but her son was willed \$50, and Josephus the only son was bequeathed all the lands, husbandry tools, clothing and all other estate not bequeathed in his last will.

According to her grandson, Oscar Leland, Lakin Willard Leland was a remarkable woman. He grew to manhood in the same home with his grandmother and in all those years never saw her out of humor. In her youth she was beautiful and a fine singer. At the age of 14 she led the choir in the old Grafton church.

Uniquely enough we have preserved for us a picture of Lakin Leland on her monument in North Springfield cemetery. Embedded in the marble above the inscription is a tintype in a shield-shaped frame with a moveable cover to protect the picture from the elements. After all these years Lakin Leland's features and facial expression as portrayed bear evidence of that sweetness of disposition, intellectuality, and depth of soul ascribed to her by her grandson. In the picture Lakin is wearing a cap with a dainty white frill which lends further charm to the lines of her sweet face.

Caleb and Lakin Willard were married April 1, 1789. For a number of years they resided in Grafton, Mass. But in 1800 he moved to Chester, Vt. It will be recalled that his twin brother Joshua and also his brother Thomas had already married sisters and moved to that place. To Caleb and Lakin were born ten children as follows:

Nancy b. Aug. 28, 1789 m. William Wells, first resided in Cavendish d. 1872.

Otis b. Nov. 28, 1791 m. Nancy Spaulding of Cavendish, settled first in Lowell, Vt. d. Mar. 12, 1871 in Weathersfield, Vt. at home of son Willard Leland. Had ten children:

Octavius A. m. 1st Adeline Burnham 2nd Martha Haden.  
Ellen R. m. Thomas O. Brown—11 children.

Josephine M. m. Ira Chase—8 children.

Granville M. m. Marcia Payne, resided North Springfield—  
2 girls.

Joseph Willard b. June 22, 1832 m. Harriet Boynton,  
residence North Springfield.

Levi b. Nov. 8, 1835 killed in Battle of Spottsylvania, Va.  
May 12, 1864.

Mary E. b. May 1, 1838 m. Roswell Chandler, settled in  
Kansas—6 children.

Julia L. b. Sept. 14, 1840 m. Lyman Bowles, Longmeadow,  
Mass.—4 children.

Henry S. b. 1843 m. Angeline Hayden—no children—lived  
in Athens, Vt.

John A. b. 1846 m. Ella Marsh, Millers Falls—2 children

Joshua b. Grafton, Mass. May 22, 1794 m. Betsey Boynton of Baltimore Oct. 17, 1825 d. 1866.

Maria b. Grafton, Mass. Oct. 9, 1796 m. Henry Smith, Lowell, Vt.—  
5 children.

Caleb b. Grafton, Mass. July 22, 1798 d. in that town 1818.

Lakin b. Chester, Vt. Feb. 4, 1801 m. Levi Parkhurst, settled North  
Troy, Vt.—5 children.

Joseph Willard b. May 27, 1803 in Baltimore m. Martha Carter,  
Baltimore, d. Mar. 3, 1878—no children.



Hannah R. b. May 28, 1803 twin sister of Joseph Willard but born next day in Baltimore m. Thomas Gilman settled in Canada—4 children.

Charles b. Jan. 19, 1806 in Baltimore m. Lucy Perkins of Perkinsville, Vt., settled in Lowell, Vt., where 8 children were born.

James Alonzo b. Mar. 19, 1808 m. Lucinda Chesley, settled Brooklyn, N. Y.—3 children.

Thus it will be seen that four of Caleb and Lakin's children were born in Baltimore.

It was Caleb's twin brother Joshua Leland of Chester who first purchased from David Johnson 100 acres of land paying \$375 for it, "adjoining on the southerly line of Luke Harris Land on the right of Levi Webster, to extend southerly so as to include one hundred acres with a parallel line of said right to extend through the said right east and west."—The above is a true copy of that deed and is the one continually referred to in subsequent transactions most of which were among members of the Leland family for a space of about sixty-two years.

The above deed was made out on "this fourth day of April in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand eight hundred and three and witnesses by Caleb Leland and Jabez Sargeant."

On Feb. 21, 1815, Joshua Leland of Chester sold Otis, the oldest son of Caleb and Lakin, the above tract of land for \$790. This price would indicate that the land had been improved and some buildings erected thereon. Otis deeded 20 acres off the western end of this tract to his father Caleb which, by the way, was the only land in Baltimore to which father Caleb ever held a deed. Otis gave his Uncle Joshua a mortgage deed for \$600; probably Otis, now 23 years old, had saved his earnings to the extent of the remaining \$190. Caleb and Caleb Leland Jr. witnessed the three deeds all made out that same day, the latter being the Leland boy who died young.

Son Otis had lived in Grafton, Mass., all this time. In 1816 he sold his brother Joshua of Baltimore one-half of the 100 acres, excepting the 20 acres deeded off the west end (to his father Caleb).

The year 1822 saw the Leland family changing titles seven times to that same 100 acres of land we first described, and always between members of the Leland family if we can include Henry Smith of Cavendish as being the husband of Maria. Henry was deeded 58 acres extending to a certain stake "on what was known as the flat of said land." We all know where that was.

Finally, all the land became again the property of Uncle Joshua of Chester. On Dec. 19, 1822, he sold 40 acres off the northern side to Luke and Daniel Harris. Then he sold the remainder to his nephew Joshua for \$425 and took a mortgage on it for that amount payable in 12 years.

Son Joshua was very thrifty and evidently enlarged his land holdings by purchases of tracts in the adjoining towns. As early as

1829 he bought 69 acres from Salmon Dutton lying in Baltimore and Cavendish, evidently on the mountain.

The Daniel Harris family who settled on the 40 acre strip was ill-fated, death taking the family of three in a brief space of time. Joshua was able to get possession of the land east of the road, 40 acres, on Apr. 9, 1835. In 1839 he sold 2½ acres off his N. E. corner to Obed Thurston, then living on the Geo. Cook place.

Mar. 12, 1839, Joshua leased his farm to Charles Smith for five years including the mountain land. Smith was to pay \$150 annual rental, but \$20 a year of this amount was to be paid by building good stone wall on said farm at an average of 75 cents per rod. That would not be called "easy money" in these days (1942). Smith also was to have the privilege (?) of clearing land on the mountain and was to have proceeds of said cleared land. Leland reserved for himself a like privilege. Smith also was to have 100 sheep selected from the best in Leland's flock; so that was where the mountain pasture served a profitable purpose. Joshua continued to reside in town; so possibly Smith occupied the house that had been owned by Daniel Harris.

Some idea of the further land purchases of Joshua Leland will be related when son Charles A. Leland bought the Leland homestead in 1865. The first grand list books handed down to us began in the year 1828. They were very explicit, stating the number and kind of animals each taxpayer kept, also valued the buildings separate from the land.

We learn from that first grand list that Joshua's house was one of the poorest in town and appraised for only \$106.70. He kept a yoke of oxen and 5 head of other cattle, 2 horses and only 16 sheep. He always kept a yoke of oxen, generally 2 horses but only 3 or 4 cows and never had any money to tax, at least not until 1842. After he bought his mountain pasture in 1829 he seems to have gone into the sheep industry having as many as 170 sheep in 1841. That was the last year that the grand list showed the number of head of livestock kept.

Joshua's personal property in 1846 was \$233.45 above debts owing; in 1847 \$390.50; by 1850 the excess was \$565; next year \$618.50. Then his taxable personal property decreased each year until 1857 when he evidently sold his livestock to son Charles who was married that year; at least no livestock was again listed to father Joshua. Joshua paid no poll tax either after 1857.

Although Caleb Leland was the descendant of throned monarchs, we find no evidence of his having any interest in the town affairs of Baltimore. This seems strange, coming into the town as he did in 1803 when the town was only 10 years old and needing men with interest and judgment in matters of organization and administration. Certainly Caleb had no desires to wield the sceptre of the mighty as he never held a town office according to the records during the 40 years of his residence in town. In that memorable year of 1824 Caleb was on hand to elect the first town representative to the



Vermont Legislature. This proves that that meeting was a great event, of supreme importance in the annals of Baltimore.

But Caleb's descendants were very helpful in guiding the destiny of early Baltimore. Son Otis was elected to office in 1820-21, but his residence in town was of short duration. In 1821 son Joshua began his official career as fence-viewer. In 1822 he served in the capacity of town clerk. There and then was his opportunity to leave for future generations a specimen of his handwriting with its many flourishes, really giving quite an artistic touch to the prosy pictureless records. Possibly the townspeople did not approve of such fantastic handwriting as he was never elected to that important office again. He was a man well-educated for his time, and the offices to which the voters elected him prove that the townspeople recognized his scholastic ability. He was often elected lister and prepared the grand list book, with accuracy, plain writing and perfect form.

Joshua served not less than twelve times as a selectman, but most of his activities were devoted to the welfare of the schools in town. It appears that in 1828 all towns began to elect three men in each town to serve on the superintending committee of the schools. To this board Joshua was elected six years, evidently as long as such a committee was elected. Joshua was one of three men placed on the important committee in 1839 to help run the line between Cavendish and Baltimore. This committee evidently did not accomplish its purpose, and in 1841 another committee of which Joshua Leland was a member succeeded in determining said boundary line which has remained undisputed "unto this day."

He represented Baltimore in the Legislature of 1855 and 1856.

One needs to refer to those two books of ancient appearance containing the earliest school records we have to gain a true impression of Joshua Leland's interest in matters of education. As early as 1821 he began his services as clerk of District No. 1, the schoolhouse near the Dan Rich place. For nine years he kept the school records in an excellent manner. Lest the reader scoff at this service let it be known that at any time three inhabitants could request a school meeting whereupon Joshua must call a meeting, all of which meant three papers to record, the request, the warning and the proceedings of said meeting. Young Joshua served in this capacity nine years in succession, often finishing his record with characteristic flourishes of his pen.

He was almost always present at subsequent school meetings as evinced by his election to office or by the record of his bidding off the teacher to board (generally a man teacher as the distance from Joshua's house to the schoolhouse was quite long).

By 1835 excitement became very rife as to uniting the two school districts, and then it was that Joshua began to wield his pen once more. If the reader will refer to "The Story of the Schools," he will find that in 1837 a new school district to be known as Dist. No. 1 was formed extending from Joshua's to the Chester line below



David Chaplin's place (now Hammond's). Thanks to Joshua, we have a complete record of what happened in that district from March 1837 to March 14, 1839. How the remaining families on the east side of the town managed to get educational advantages for their children is not known and may always remain a mystery as no records are available. In one year six meetings were called in the new Dist. No. 1, the proceedings of which are duly recorded together with their accompanying requests and warnings.

Many of those older men seemingly withdrew from town office before becoming very old, but Joshua Leland retained his active interest in the town's affairs as long as he resided in it. As late as 1863 we find him serving in his usual capacity of moderator, selectman, and superintendent of schools. It was in 1862 that young Walbridge A. Field, destined later to be a prominent Congressman, also a Supreme Judge in Massachusetts, approached Mr. Leland, Supt., with all due respect and humility for a recommendation as to his teaching qualifications. The following is the reply to that request:

*Baltimore May 7th; 1852*

*Mr. W. A. Field*

*Sir. I received a few lines from you requesting me to favor you with a recommend as a school teacher in common district schools. I would frankly say to whom it may concern that I am personally acquainted with Mr. W. A. Field and likewise with his literary and other requisite qualifications as a school teacher and with out exaggeration would say that he would rank with the first class in the above named business.*

*Joshua Leland, Town Superintendent.*

*Common Schools Baltimore, Vt.*

It is gratifying to know that Mr. Leland was not without honor even in his own country. In the 1855 town-meeting records we find the following—"Voted that the town give their thanks to Mr. Joshua Leland for his able address as Superintendent of Common Schools." He represented Baltimore in the Legislature.

So much for Joshua Leland's splendid service to Baltimore. But not to Baltimore alone did Mr. Leland give his time and talents. The following words of appreciation are taken from Oscar H. Leland's genealogy: "He was a very conscientious and worthy Man". He taught school seventeen consecutive winters. About 1825 he joined the Universalist Church in Cavendish, Vt., was baptized by immersion by the Rev. Warren Skinner and licensed to preach. His son Oscar remembered hearing him preach in Chester a number of times, also remembered his preaching the funeral sermon of William Thayer on Parker Hill, Springfield, Vt., in 1830. In 1833 Joshua Leland made the prayer at the dedication of the Universalist Church in Springfield.

Mr. Leland sold the home place to his son Charles in 1865. He was in town for March meeting of that year being elected as petit juror; he moved to Springfield where he died the following year, May 27, 1866.



Although son Charles did not buy his father's farm until April 8, 1865, it is probable that Charles and his wife always lived with his parents after their marriage in March 24, 1857.

It was Joshua Leland who built the fine stone house in 1843 that now stands on the Leland homestead. Charles, when an old man, liked to relate how he and his brother Oscar used to vie with each other to see who could bring in the biggest stone on his wheelbarrow from the quarry back of the present buildings. "Oscar usually beat but, after all, he was six years the older." Two families of Lelands enjoyed the new stone house and grandmother Lakin lived in it until Feb. 17, 1862, being 93 years old when she died. Her husband Caleb died the year the new house was built, aged 78.

Joshua and Betsey Leland deeded their son not only the original 100 acres in Baltimore but also what was probably 80 acres lying east of the road in Chester and adjoining the old farm. It will be recalled that the road into Chester at that time led past what is now known as Rocky Ridge. Son Charles already owned land on the south and east of his father's farm so he must have been quite a landowner in 1865.

But not for long. Aug. 30, 1866, Charles and wife deeded the premises they had so recently purchased from Father and Mother Leland to Putnam J. Thompson, reserving the possession of the stone house and a privilege in the barn until the first day of April next, "also the right to the growing crops with the right to harvest the same. It is agreed that a kettle which is set in an arch on the premises passes with the real estate."

The reason is apparent why Charles wished to retain his residence in town until the following April, 1867. At the town meeting held in Mar. 1866, Charles was showered with town offices, lister, auditor, fence-viewer and highway surveyor being among them. On the first Tuesday in Sept. 1866, after he had sold his farm on Aug. 30, he was elected town representative to the General Assembly; so he could well afford to make arrangements to hang around town a few months longer. The deed was not presented for record until Feb. 1867.

Charles had served his native town faithfully and well as selectman, lister and some of the minor offices, but he remembered that his father Joshua never relinquished town office in favor of the younger generation.

It was a distinct loss to the town when the Leland family moved away. Charles settled in North Springfield where he conducted a store and cheese factory for several years. Many now living remember him when he and his son George ran a general store in Springfield.

#### Genealogy of the Joshua Leland Family

Joshua Leland	married	Betsey Boynton
b. Grafton, Mass., May 22, 1794	Oct. 17, 1825	b. Baltimore,
d. Springfield, Vt., May 27, 1866		Vt., Nov. 4, 1800
		d. Chester, Vt., Oct. 1, 1884

Their Children:

Oscar Hopestill—b. July 21, 1826 m. Frances Chamberlin

two children:

David C. b. Oct. 29, 1868 in Texas

Oscar H. Jr. b. Aug. 1, 1873 d. Aug. 24, 1873

Marcella D.—b. Dec. 17, 1830 m. Thomas L. Jenkins of Springfield, moved to Chester

Five children:

Chas. L. b. Oct. 17, 1856 in Baltimore d. Dec. 22, 1920 in Charleville, Queensland, Australia

Nellie b. Dec. 30, 1857 m. Chas. A. Williams d. Dec. 1883

George O. b. Oct. 28, 1859 m. Minnie Robey

two children—Walter M. and Ralph C.

Lucie b. Dec. 9, 1864 m. Albert E. Sawyer

three children—Lena, Thomas, Helen

Hattie E. b. July 10, 1870 m. Fred O. Stearns, Weathersfield

Charles Alonzo—b. Nov. 15, 1832 m. Susan Farnham b. 1833 d. 1906

One child:

George F. b. Jan. 25, 1858 m. Nellie A. Pierce descendant of John Pierce who came to America in 1637, settled in Watertown, Mass., a weaver by trade. (Also an ancestor of the writer).

Two children: Arthur b. Aug. 28, 1886

Mary A. b. June 29, 1890 d. 1941, m. Willard Lawrence

Oscar went to school winters in Baltimore until he was 21, working on his father's farm summers. After reaching his majority he fitted for college in Black River Academy, Ludlow, and Springfield Wesleyan Seminary. He entered Norwich University then at Norwich, Vt., in 1851. His lungs were affected by pneumonia and, not deeming it wise to risk the rigors of another Vermont winter, he went south in Dec. 1853 to Georgia. He taught school there until Dec. 1855 when he went to Texas. There he taught school and studied law.

The last six months of 1856 he was a tutor in Baylor University. In December of that year he took the degree of A. B. and was elected Professor of Mathematics, Astronomy and Mechanical Philosophy. In 1860 he received the degree of A. M. In 1865 he left this institution to serve in the U. S. Internal Revenue Department five years, finally resigning to assume duties of Presiding Justice of the McLennan County Court. He was postmaster at Waco, Texas, eight years or until 1898 when he bought a farm in MacGregor, Texas, where he was living when he compiled the genealogy of his ancestors. He was a soldier in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

Marcella Danell Leland Jenkins had a thorough English education. It may be remembered that she was the first woman entrusted to teach a winter term of school in the stone schoolhouse. She was a



very successful teacher as her heritage might lead us to expect, also a notable housekeeper and mother of five enterprising, highly desirable citizens.

Geo. F. Leland was honored by many positions of trust. He was a Representative to the General Assembly from the town of Springfield in 1892, a Senator from Windsor County, for ten years President of the Village of Springfield, and Chairman of the Board of School Directors in Springfield nearly 20 years. He served on the Governor's staff, which gave him the title of Colonel.

### Joseph Willard Leland

Joseph Willard Leland	married	Martha Carter
had a twin sister Hannah		b. Wilmington, Mass.
b. in Baltimore May 27, 1803		d. Baltimore Mar. 10, 1878
d. in Baltimore Mar. 3, 1878		Age 74 yrs. 10 mo. 5 da.
Age 74 yrs. 9 mo. 7 days		
no children		

The two words immediately above probably explain why the family sketch of Joseph Willard Leland is necessarily short. No generations of progeny between him and the writer to furnish information concerning this worthy couple. We have already used all the facts given us in Oscar Leland's genealogy.

The town records, however, furnish us with some data which perhaps is worth mentioning.

In 1845 Joseph W. Leland of Baltimore purchased from Luke Harris all the land which said Luke owned in Baltimore, 68½ acres, paying \$1000 for it. Joseph and his wife were no longer young as their birth dates will show, both being 42 years of age.

April 27, 1849, Joseph bought 45 acres off the western end of what was once the John Woodbury farm, Abner Field that same day buying the other half or the east end, thereby dividing what may be for all time the John Woodbury farm. He sold at least a portion of this land to Betsey Davis in 1855 for \$375.22, taking a mortgage back for the full amount of the purchase money. According to the grand list book Joseph did not sell Betsey all the 45 acre tract as he owned 77¾ acres in 1856, or an increase of 9¼ acres added to what was left of the original Harris farm.

Joseph and his wife were in comfortable circumstances it would seem. The grand lists after 1841 did not reveal so much of livestock kept and money on hand of each taxpayer; but the amount of personal property each person had, including money over and above debts owing, was a matter of record then as well as now.

No mortgages for Joseph to pay were ever placed on record. In 1851 he was taxed \$410 on personal property; in 1855 that item had increased to \$591.50. The next year it was \$979, but Joseph had sold some or most of the Woodbury tract. It was that year that Joseph and Martha built the new house and the valuation of his



real estate was raised \$500. They did not value a good new house very high in 1857. That house if built today (1942) would cost probably \$2500 to \$3000 with no modern plumbing or heating devices.

It was one of the most attractive houses ever built in Baltimore, a well-built front hall and stairway, four fair-sized pleasant rooms downstairs, three well-arranged chambers and a convenient back stairway, all well-finished. The old house stood nearer the road, about two rods south from the present house, and was never a very valuable structure. A well was located near it, and the story has been handed down that Mrs. Leland was subject to mental derangement at times. On one such occasion she attempted suicide by jumping from a window into the well but with no fatal results. Joseph and Martha Leland were born within just three weeks of each other and their deaths occurred just one week apart.

Joseph died first; so the property fell to Martha's heirs, all of whom lived outside this state. Charles Leland, Joseph's nephew, was administrator. Otis' son, Willard Leland, whose full name was also Joseph Willard, spent much time with his uncle and aunt.

It would seem that in younger years Joseph did not live in Baltimore, at least after he reached his majority, until he finally bought the Harris farm. His name does not appear on the lists as a poll taxpayer until 1845. He was not very active in affairs of the town, was selectman at least seven different years, four of them in succession, also performed the arduous duties of highway surveyor five or six years. Joseph Willard was never such a prominent town official as was his brother Joshua. Having no children in school, he probably had little interest in the school.

#### Jonathan Woodbury Family (*Arthur Basso Place*)

If the writer were asked to name the man who was most progressive in the earliest days of the town of Baltimore and who was foremost in promoting the general welfare of the new-born town, in her humble opinion that honor should be accorded Jonathan Woodbury. During all the years of residence within the narrow boundaries of the town, Jonathan Woodbury was always industrious, enterprising, and sharing in a faithful and efficient manner all those duties which a newly organized town imposed upon a few men. Women had no share in the responsibility of town office in those days—"petticoat rule" was unknown.

It was in 1791 that Jonathan Atherton of Cavendish, one of that town's largest landholders, sold a parcel of land to Jonathan Woodbury of Royalston, Mass., of the following description—"Beginning at a hemlock tree, standing in the north line of Wm. Chaplin's land No. 39 thence north 80 degrees west one hundred forty eight rods to a beach tree thence north 22 degrees east twenty rods to a beach tree thence north 35 degrees east fifty nine rods to a beach tree, thence 80 degrees east one hundred twenty-six rods to a beach



tree, thence north eight rods to a birch tree thence north eighty degrees east fourteen rods to a stake thence southerly 130 rds to the begun bounds and containing 93 acres be the same more or less and is on the original right of Henry Hilton.”

How many readers of today would think the beech trees mentioned could definitely and permanently mark the boundary lines for this young man of vision and energy? And how fortunate that a tree was always found at exactly the right spot!

Faith in his project and confidence in his own ability must have been rampant in young Jonathan's heart, for the next year, 1792, he purchased 30 acres more from the same Atherton, “beginning at the south east corner of said Woodbury's land at a hemlock (*probably the same hemlock, the first mentioned tree in deed above*) then North 12 degrees east hundred rods to a Basswood, then south 80 degrees east forty eight rods to a corner, then south 12 degrees west one hundred rods to the north line of Wm. Chaplin's land then on said north line westwardly to the begun bounds.”

It meant two trips for the writer to the town clerk's office in Cavendish to determine the exact location of Wm. Chaplin's north line, as his land transactions were all over before the Baltimore records began. It was found that, contrary to a previous statement, Wm. Chaplin first owned the original right of Levi Webster Lot No. 39 and he sold to Aseph Fletcher. This was the 312-acre tract which is now occupied by Henry Allen, Slayton Kendall and Mr. Loomis. The southern boundary now of Arthur Basso's farm was the Wm. Chaplin north line in the early 1790's.

The first tract Woodbury purchased was the one farthest west and at the base of the mountain. It was all an unbroken forest when Jona. tackled it in 1791 by clearing some land and sowing patches of wheat. He went back to Massachusetts for the winter, and in the spring of 1792 he returned, cleared more land and built a log house on the second piece of land he bought of Atherton that year. After harvesting the wheat he returned again to Royalston. On one of his trips he found some miscreant had stolen the store of wheat cherished for seed purposes.

It was probably a happy journey to Vermont the third time as he brought to his newly built cabin his bride, Sally Davis, to whom he was married Jan. 20, 1793. They had a shorter trip than some of the other newcomers as Royalston, Mass., is only a few miles below the Vermont state line. Jona. and Sally came on horseback and their household goods were brought by an ox team.

It was a beautiful spot to which Jona. brought his bride that day in June 1793, one of the sightliest locations in Baltimore, an immense sweep of hills and valleys reaching before one in every direction except to the north. What might have been the thoughts and emotions that stirred within the breasts of these newly weds! Did the sight of those near and distant heavily wooded hills and valleys give them faith, strength, courage to face the future as to the Psalmist of old? Whatever thoughts of loneliness came to her



mind it is probable that young Sally was proud of what Jona. had accomplished, and she said to herself, "This is our home and may I be worthy of a place in life beside Jonathan."

Ten children were born to Jona. and Sally, John their first child being the first boy born after Baltimore was organized as a town 1794. He died when 17 years old.

The nearest gristmill was over the mountain in Whitesville in Cavendish. At first Jona. carried the grain on his back to get it ground for the family needs. Other supplies had to be purchased at Charlestown, N. H., which was reached either by the Crown Point road through Weathersfield or by way of Chester.

Not long was Jona. contented with the two tracts of land purchased before his marriage. In 1794 he bought 29 acres more which began at the basswood tree mentioned in the deed of 1792 and which extended east to Joseph Atherton's line, then north to a maple tree on the hill, then west to the northeast corner of his first purchase.

Jona. and Asa Robinson together in 1796 bought the Wm. Briant field of 30 acres for £30 lawful money, this being the parcel of land on which the Basso buildings now stand. A little controversy seems to have arisen over that land; a bit of space given to it will explain why six acres bounded on three sides by the Basso land should have been a part of the Thomas Preston farm, so-called, now for nearly a century.

It appears that Asa quit-claimed to Jona. in 1798 all his right and title to the above land for the sum of \$16.75, but this deed was never recorded until May 17, 1800. It might not have received the attention due even then if Peter Robinson, administrator of his father's estate, on May 15, 1800, (two days before the recording as per above) had not sold to John B. Curtis two pieces out of this land which Asa and wife had occupied. These pieces cornered diagonally, separated by the road which led to Jona. Woodbury's dwelling. Jona., being the newly elected town clerk in 1800, hastened to record his deed from Asa as Peter, administrator, was selling this same land. It is possible that Jona. and Asa had engaged in a transaction unbeknown to son Peter or wife Margaret and that the latter had never signed away her homestead rights (women may have had a few rights even in 1800).

According to its records, the Probate Court "set off for the Widow's dower during her natural life" the parcel of land above the road on which the house was built. The probate records reveal that poor Widow Margaret needed all that was her due as Asa's real estate was appraised for only \$173.33, his personal property \$65.26, and he had debts owing \$77.87. It was well Widow Margaret had a "friend in court."

Before Peter sold the land, however, he was obliged to pay Jona. \$30.00 for a quit-claim deed that would clear the title. Even though this tract of land passed from Peter to John Curtis, from him to Ephraim Martin, then to Seth Houghton in 1808, to Lemuel Hough-



ton in 1813, to John Woodbury in 1819, even as late as 1822 in each conveyance occurs this statement, "Be it remembered and forever understood that the said Margaret Robinson is to have and occupy the above mentioned piece of land set for her dower during her natural life."

Margaret evidently lived and clung to her rights over twenty-two years, but we wonder if she actually occupied the property in person. We know from the 1800 census that John Curtis and his family lived there and later Ephraim Martin and family. In 1846 Earle Woodbury, son of John, deeded this 6 acre tract to Thomas Preston, and it has since remained a part of the Thomas Preston farm, so-called. Jona. was able to purchase the westerly tract of about 7 acres below the road from Ephraim Martin, and we can easily surmise that both Jona. Woodburys coveted those 6 acres, and it is strange that with all their land buying they never regained possession of them.

Jona. was not daunted by the above disappointing deal by any means. In 1806 in company with Reuben Bemis he bought 55 acres of what is now the Pollard pasture for \$547.05. (This was nearly \$10 an acre and we wonder if the Levi Davis dwelling was not still standing on it). Jona. sold out to Reuben five years later.

Now he became a moneylender, taking a mortgage on Manasseh Boynton's farm for \$75. In 1820 he loaned Lemuel Houghton \$420, taking a mortgage on the Houghton farm which Lemuel agreed to pay in a year. Failing in this and evidently becoming discouraged, Lemuel sold to Jonathan and Jonathan Jr. all the Houghton farm, now the Thomas place, except 25 acres north of the house, 86 acres for \$950. One regrets the evident lack of prosperity on the part of the Houghton family and marvels at the financial progress of the Jona. Woodburys; it was, it now is, and always will be that way.

The Houghton farm began to be cut into pieces that make an interested reader tremble for its future. In 1822 Edmund Batchelder on the Volney Foster place bought 19 acres across from Kendall's woods for \$233. In Mar. 1822 Calvin Houghton bought the 6 acres 78 rods in the northeast corner for \$97.58 (figure that per acre). In the same year John Woodbury bought 21 acres adjoining what had already been sold to Batchelder and extending westerly along the highway 41 rods for \$287.70.

There was still left all the land on the southerly side of the road. In 1822 Jonathan Sr. purchased the Daniel Bacon farm, now the Bibens farm in Springfield, and he sold Jona. Jr. for \$1000 a one-half undivided part of the old Woodbury homestead in Baltimore, "With one half all the buildings standing on the same the other half of said buildings and premises I the said Jonathan Woodbury reserve to myself." Jona. Sr. was probably now the largest land-owner in this locality, and with the aid of his numerous stalwart sons he cultivated his acres intensively.

In 1824 he deeded son Jona. his half of the eastern end of the Houghton farm lying south of the road, 33 acres. In 1829 the two



Jonathans sold Parkman Davis the 24½ acres off the western end of the Houghton farm for \$292. This land included what is now the Kendall pasture where the new cottages are built and also northerly as far as the road which at that time extended from Shepard's corner directly up toward the mountain. When the new road was built which was completed in 1832, it severed the Parkman Davis land in twain, and he was allowed damages to the extent of \$73.40.

There were two dwellings once upon the Houghton place, what became of one of them is unknown; probably it was torn down to improve buildings elsewhere. This was the habitation of Seth and Sally and their twelve children. The old Houghton home evidently disappeared while the Woodburys owned it.

It is plain that Jonathan Woodbury was enterprising and successful in business ventures. In the History of the Town of Springfield we read: "He commenced his business life soon after the close of the Revolutionary War when the country was poor, money was scarce and exceedingly hard to obtain. His first earnings were \$3.50 per month in payment for services on a farm. Starting in the times he did, making a home in the new country and rearing a large family encouraged habits of industry and economy which he retained through life."

It may afford some satisfaction to remember he got his start in the little town of Baltimore. And he gave to the town as much as he gained because he was ever interested in doing his part in administering the affairs of the newly born town. We may well be certain he worked for those first highways and school privileges. He was voted selectman, treasurer and highway surveyor at the town's first meeting; seven years he served as treasurer; from 1800 to 1815 he was the town clerk and selectman as well, except for two of those years. He left town in 1822 before Baltimore exercised her prerogative to have a representative in the legislature else he might have held that honorable office.

The log cabin at the end of the lane was discarded for a frame house built a few rods farther east along the same lane, both habitations of Jonathan and Sally being a short distance from what was then the main road. When he sold to his oldest son Jonathan Jr., he moved the rest of his family soon to the Daniel Bacon farm now known as the Bibens place. Here he erected a large substantial farmhouse on the site of the present new house; the Bacon house built across the road was torn down, only roses being left now to indicate the spot.

Jonathan Jr. continued in his father's footsteps as a good farmer, businessman and townsman. He married Sally Frost of Weathersfield. In 1827-1828-1829 he served as town clerk, treasurer and selectman; in 1836-37 he represented the town in the Vermont legislature.

Neither of the Jonathans kept a large number of cattle; generally they were listed with 4 oxen, not over 11 head of other cattle. But



in the 1830's they became interested in sheep raising, increasing their flock from 18 sheep in 1834 to 130 in 1836.

We can easily imagine that Jonathan Jr. took an active part in the agitation that was to decide whether the new road completed in 1832 was to pass by what is now the Basso place or to be built from near the Litch homestead directly east to the Frank Kendall place, thence past Earle Woodbury's house to connect with the Geo. Cook road. Evidently it was a bitter struggle. The lay of the land seemingly would make a main road by Kendall's less hilly. But the Jona. Woodbury, Widow Preston and Edmund Batchelder families did not relish the idea of living at the end of lanes. The hill faction came out victorious. We gather from the records that Jona. Jr. had moved his buildings down to the site of the present buildings by 1836, as in that year the road to the Woodbury house was voted discontinued.

The writer was told that the original house on the Basso place was a large one-story house painted red. It was burned in the 1870's when Rollin Sherwin lived in it, and he it was who built the present one. Some of the barns were moved down from the hill, the barn from the Wd. Robinson's six acres being used in the buildings. It was the intent and the boast of Woodbury that his barn when completed was the longest one in town.

Even if Jona. and his family did finally live on the line of through traffic, evidently they became restless. Perhaps the reason lay in the fact that all the Woodbury boys were naturally inclined to mechanics as well as farming. Jona.'s eldest son made a valuable improvement on local steam engines, which was the end of farming for Jona. and his boys. He sold his farm to Lyman Litch in 1839 and father and sons moved to Rochester, N. Y., where they engaged successfully in the manufacture of engines and boilers.

The Jona. Woodbury family resided in Baltimore only about 30 years, but all of their ten children were born in the log cabin or in the house up the lane and near the foot of the mountain. Some genealogical facts have been furnished the writer by Abbie Woodbury Rowe which are gladly inserted. The names and birth dates of the children are as follows:

John b. 1794 d. July 30, 1811, only one buried in Baltimore cemetery;

Jonathan Jr. b. 1796 d. 1877 m. Sally Frost of Weathersfield;

Esther b. 1798 m. Joel Ellis in 1830—five children;

Sally b. 1802 unm. buried in N. Springfield;

Daniel b. 1804—five children—moved to New York State;

George b. 1806 d. Oct. 19, 1875 m. Mary A. Bates—10 children;

Silas b. 1809 d. age 75—settled in Hardwick—no family;

Joanna b. 1812 unm. buried N. Springfield;

Joel b. 1815 d. in Kansas—5 children;

Mary b. 1818 unm. buried N. Springfield.

As will be noted, Esther was the only girl of this family to marry. She spent her married life in Hardwick, Vt., and died there. She



had at least five children whose names were Joel A. H., Charles D., George, John Quincy and Sarah Janette. Of the above Joel A. H. came to Springfield when thirteen years old to live with his uncles, his mother having died. He proved to have an inventive mind and developed a child's cab or carriage which for a time met with ready sales. The manufacture of these carriages flourished to such an extent that it was one of the leading enterprises in Springfield. In 1872 Mr. Ellis withdrew from the company and finally settled in Beaver Falls where he engaged in the manufacture of pottery. He died in 1878, leaving his business in charge of his son Herbert Ellis. J. A. H. Ellis was characterized as a man of great energy and one of the most wide-awake and public-spirited men of the town.

Esther's only daughter to grow up was Sarah Janette. She was educated to be a teacher, went to Missouri, and taught several years until she married a banker, Mr. Yeater. They reared a family of four children to all of whom they gave college advantages.

Daniel was always more inclined to mechanics than farming. He assisted his father in building the new house on the Bacon farm, then settled in Lower Perkinsville where he and his father owned the mills there in partnership. He next moved to Rochester, N. Y., where he invented improvements in horse powers which were secured by patents. The large 12 horse sweep powers which were later used in the West to thresh 8 to 12 hundred bushels of wheat in a day were invariably the Woodbury powers. Thus did the log cabin at the foot of Hawks Mt. in Baltimore cradle men of enterprise and genius.

George Woodbury lived in Springfield; he was a farmer and respected by all who knew him. He and his wife had a family of ten children. One of his daughters, Frances A., taught school in North Springfield when Anna Tarbell Field was in the grammar grades. She married Daniel Edson, and their son was given a thorough college education, winning the degree of Master of Science from the University of Vermont. He was finally appointed to the staff of Bureau of Plant Industry in Washington, D. C. From there he was sent to Waco, Texas, by the U. S. government to investigate cotton-raising problems and to establish laboratories over which he had charge. He contracted the Texas fever there and died comparatively young.

Frances Woodbury's sister, Lorette A., married Horace Kingsbury and settled in Cavendish, Vt. Their sons were at one time, and their grandson is at the present writing, rated as the best farmers and farmer in that town.

Silas and Joel like their brother George followed the business of farming. Silas settled in Hardwick as did his married sister Esther Ellis.

Joel Woodbury was the son who stayed on the Jonathan Woodbury Sr.'s farm. He became prominent in the town's affairs serving as lister, selectman, etc. He was elected to represent the town of



Springfield in the legislatures of 1860 and '61. He was appointed both times to the committee on agriculture, the second term as chairman.

His religious preferences were Baptist. He was elected deacon of the North Springfield Baptist Church when 28 years old and served the church for 47 years or until he left the state. He was also a member of the choir for 43 years.

The late Anna Tarbell Field, who was employed by Mr. Woodbury to teach in North Springfield, often mentioned his untiring interest in the schools. He was one of the incorporators of the Town Library in Springfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodbury were the parents of five children: Charles E. who died when 20 years old; Henry B. m. Carrie Elliot—2 sons—went to Cawker, Kansas in 1884; Edward N. m. Elsie Grout of Cavendish—2 children—Eda and Arthur; Abbie E. m. Chas. S. Rowe of Hardwick—lived in Chicago, Ill., where Mr. Rowe's was headquarters for Hardwick Granite Co.; Emma A. unmarried—an artist, was employed in the Bureau of Fisheries in Washington, D. C. Her work received creditable mention in a pamphlet issued by the U. S. Government.

Joel Woodbury cultivated his farm forty-seven years, and all this time it was increasing in productiveness. In 1889 he and his son Edward moved to Cawker, Kansas, where his son Henry had been located for some time. There they engaged in the business of raising and feeding cattle.

The two sisters Abbie and Emma moved from Chicago after Mr. Rowe's death to Rochester, N. Y. There they spent their last days together. Strangely enough, both sisters died on the same day only a few hours apart. Both bodies were brought to North Springfield for burial.

We must be favorably impressed by the usefulness of the progeny of Jonathan and Sally Woodbury. Their children born on the uncleared hillsides of Vermont were destined to reach degrees of prominence in distant cities. We do not learn that their children had educational advantages beyond those afforded by our North School District, but their children's children were provided with the education that fitted many of them to fill acceptable positions of honor and public trust.

#### Boynton Family

The original American ancestor of the Boyntons of Baltimore, Springfield and Weathersfield was John Boynton, who with his brother William landed in Boston in 1638. John was a hatter by trade, William a tailor. In England there is an ancient village not far from the North Sea called Boynton. This village gave its name to the family as it was their principal dwelling place for centuries.

In Oscar Leland's genealogy we learn of twenty generations of Boyntons in England previous to 1638 when John and his brother embarked for America with a party of emigrants many of whom



were wealthy. They bought a large tract of land which they named Rowley. John Boynton m. Ellen Pell. Seven children all born in Rowley. His son—Joseph b. 1644 m. 1st. Sarah Swan. Nine children all born Rowley. His son—Jonathan b. Aug. 19, 1684 m. Margaret Harriman. 9 children born in Rowley. His son—Jonathan b. Mar. 16, 1716 m. Elizabeth Wood. Ten children born in Rowley, except last two born in Lunenburg. His son—Jonathan b. Feb. 11, 1744 m. Elizabeth Divol. Eight children born in Fitchburg, except Jonathan the oldest. He served in Revolution, enlisting in 1780 at Fitchburg. As these children began to come to Vermont and three of them to Baltimore we will copy the names of all of them. 1. Jonathan b. Oct. 21, 1771 m. Sally Martin, Dec. 15, 1796, came to Baltimore soon after marriage. Jonathan d. June 10, 1856, Sally d. Mar. 25, 1852—9 children. 2. Elizabeth b. Feb. 1774 m. William Baldwin of Winchendon. 3. Manasseh b. Jan. 7, 1776 m. Sally Butterfield—five children—lived in Baltimore—died in Bethel, Vt. 4. Joseph b. Aug. 25, 1778 m. Mary Gray, cared for his father in his old age in Fitchburg—thirteen children. 5. Susannah b. April 29, 1783 m. Ephraim Martin—five children—lived and died in Baltimore. 6. Lucinda b. Jan. 2, 1786 m. Benj. Tilden—lived in Fitchburg—8 children. 7. Cyrus b. April 22, 1789 m. Jerusha Flint—moved to Essex, N. Y.—9 children.

In his will Jonathan left his widow one-third of his property, \$100 to his son Cyrus, \$50 cash to sons Manasseh and Jonathan, \$10 to each of his daughters Betsey, Susannah and Lucinda, and all the rest to his son Joseph. He also gave and bequeathed said son Joseph "all debts that may be due owing and coming to me."

To Jonathan and Sally Martin nine children were born. We note that practically all the Boynton children of previous generations grew up and married, but Jonathan and Sally's children and grandchildren seemed less robust. Betsey b. Sept. 12, 1797 d. Nov. 10, 1797. Sally b. Nov. 27, 1798 m. Luke Robinson. Their sketch appears under Robinson Family. Betsey b. Nov. 4, 1800 m. Joshua Leland d. Chester, Vt., Oct. 1, 1884. Joseph b. Sept. 18, 1802 m. Arathusa F. Martin dau. of Ebenezer of Baltimore—7 children. Mary b. Feb. 23, 1805 m. David Barker of Jay—one child. Jonathan Martin b. Nov. 4, 1807 m. Harriet Batchelder—5 children. Alonzo Lewis b. Feb. 8, 1810 m. Mary Parker of Ludlow—no children. Mehitabel b. Sept. 23, 1812 d. Feb. 11, 1813. John b. Nov. 23, 1814 d. June 25, 1816.

Jonathan Martin born Nov. 4, 1807, for many years resided in Baltimore—five children: Harriet Electa b. Jan. 30, 1835; Edmond Martin b. Nov. 4, 1836 d. Dec. 28, 1840; Emmerson Armiel b. Aug. 3, 1839, killed in battle Spottsylvania, Va., May 12, 1864; Francis Cyrus b. Oct. 12, 1843 d. July 27, 1844; Frederick Eugene b. Sept. 24, 1847 d. June 9, 1848.

It will be seen that only Harriet Electa and Emmerson Armiel of the above children lived to grow up. What a sad day it must have been for his parents when news came that day of the death of their



only son, Emmerson. The writer has a picture of him in his soldier uniform which she prizes highly, a very fine-looking young man with a beard.

If the reader will refer to the Martin family sketch, it will be seen that Sally Martin was the oldest of eleven children, all of whom came to Baltimore with their parents in 1796 except Jane who had married and had gone to New York state to live. Sally and Jonathan spent all their married life in Baltimore where they reared a family of five children that became useful, highly esteemed citizens, who acquired a fair amount of the world's goods and helped in the better development of their community and church.

The first year after Jonathan came to town he was elected lister. Every year he was elected to some office of importance which shows that he was a faithful attendant at town meetings. The record of the town meeting for 1815 reads as follows:

"1 ly chose Jonathan Boynton, Moderator

2 ly chose Jonathan Boynton, Town Clerk

3 ly chose Jonathan Boynton, 1st selectman"

Jonathan certainly led the procession that day. He served as a selectman 11 years and as town clerk 6 years. After his son Jona. Martin took the Freeman's Oath in 1828, the father became less active, held offices whose duties were light but showed his continued interest. He was a town grand juror for many years.

It appears that he was contented with only fifty acres of land in Baltimore. When in 1832 he conveyed his real estate to son Jona. Martin, the land described is the very same irregular shape he had purchased of his father-in-law Ephraim Martin. However, he owned quite a large piece of land "lying and being in Cavendish described as follows viz Beginning at a stake and stones standing on the southwest corner of Hawks Mountain, so called."

It was the old-time conveyance whereby a favored son took the old people to see through life for their property. Jona. Martin and Harriet were "to well and faithfully and truly and without fraud and covetousness maintain and support the said Jonathan and Sally according to their degree and standing in society, in sickness and in health with all necessary comfortable and convenient house-room lodging food physick nursing and attendance wood washing—a suitable horse and carriage to ride as they may desire and entertain and accommodate their friends when visiting."—In addition to these stipulations, Jona. Martin was to pay his brother Joseph Boynton \$100 and his sister Mary Barker \$20 after the decease of Father Jonathan who, by the way, lived 24 years after the above indenture was made, Sally lived 20 years. Those old settlers worked desperately hard, many of them, in their early years, but often retired when comparatively young, or so it would seem to us of the present day.

The next year after Jona. Martin took over the property his grandfather Ephraim Martin came back from North Springfield and died in the Boynton home.



About this time Jona. Martin took unto himself a wife Harriet Batchelder, daughter of Edmund and Rachel Batchelder. Probably few finer young couples ever began life together in our little town than this one; both were born and reared in Baltimore, and they proved themselves to be citizens of sterling worth, intellectual, industrious and God-fearing. Martin Boynton served as deacon of the North Springfield Baptist Church nearly fifty years, most of which time he lived in Baltimore five miles distant from the church. With the transportation facilities of their day and the busy cares of their daily lives, Martin and Harriet must have sacrificed much and made many a determined effort to serve the interests of God and His Church.

Martin Boynton was a good townsman as well as church man. He was better educated than his father before him as were all those of his generation, thanks be to the efficiency of the early schools of Baltimore. He was a close rival of his cousin Joshua Leland in his service to the schools of Baltimore, serving with him several times on the committee to superintend the schools of the town.

He was town clerk from 1831 to 1838, town treasurer from 1840 to 1859. His fellow townsmen showed their faith in him by electing him not only treasurer but as selectman and trustee of the Surplus Money, all in the same year. Besides he often served as moderator, making four offices of importance that he held at least ten different years. He also represented Baltimore in the legislature for the years 1844, 1849, 1854. He may have left town in 1859 as from that time he no longer held office.

Unlike his father, Martin Boynton sought to increase his land holdings. We find that in 1833 Benjamin Litch had died and Jona. Woodbury Jr. was appointed administrator. Martin Boynton was on hand in Apr. 1834 to bid off what appears to have been the entire Litch property for \$183.43 subject to a mortgage of \$400 due Isaac Ives and the annual interest. In July of that year Martin sold Phineas Leland of Chester a tract of land on the mountain later called the Pierce Lot, receiving \$200 for the same. In July Martin and his father mortgaged all the land they owned in Baltimore to Isaac Ives, evidently to settle with the administrator for \$500. In 1841 this mortgage was discharged. Martin paid taxes on two houses as late as 1841.

The writer makes no apology in this case or any other for exposing the financial situations of certain of those early settlers. It is an inspiration for those of us who have or will follow in their train to know that not all our predecessors who gained prominence and a competence here in Baltimore had material wealth served them on a silver platter; neither is it evident that they even acquired the Midas-like touch. They worked, planned and saved even as you and I, only more so.

With Joshua Leland, Martin bought the 40 acres east of the road belonging to Daniel Harris, but he soon sold his share to his cousin Joshua.



Judged by present-day standards the Boyntons farmed in a small way as did all their neighbors. They always kept a yoke of oxen, but from 1828 until 1842 never did they have more than 6 cows at a time or 10 head of cattle at the most. Verily they lived off their land which provided them with fuel, shelter, food and clothing. It required hours of diligent labor and no small degree of skill to make those acres meet all the needs of a growing family.

It came with something like a shock when the discovery was made that in 1859 Martin Boynton was not elected to any office. A survey of the grand list books reveals that Martin paid his last poll tax in Baltimore that year 1859 but had no personal property listed in excess of debts owing, neither that year nor in the year previous. That item of taxable personal property had increased from \$211.67 in 1851 to \$1104.50 in 1857. The solution might have been that Martin had become speculative and had invested his money on hand in some new venture out of town, thereby incurring indebtedness.

Martin Boynton with others living under the mountain took up sheep raising in the late 1830's. He and his father had always kept a few to provide for the family needs, but by 1836 the Boyntons had 130 sheep, in 1841 they had 139, in 1843—150. Probably the sheep business proved a very profitable venture for Deacon Boynton.

The Boynton house as we know it today appears to have been the ell part of the first habitation. A large cellar adjacent to the present one confirms this. An examination of the roof from the interior plainly shows that the original ell was greatly enlarged and modernized perhaps after the manner of the early 1800's. Possibly the two Boynton families lived separately.

Joseph Atherton Family  
(*The Erwin Sherwin Farm*)

In poring over the early records of the town of Cavendish one is impressed by the frequently appearing name of Atherton indicating that the family held a prominent place in the affairs of that town, both as landholders and town officials.

It appears that one Jonathan Atherton at an early date acquired several tracts of land "over the mountain" in what is now Baltimore. In the first year's records of land conveyances in Baltimore, 1794, we read that said Jonathan sold 29 acres to Jona. Woodbury abutting the land on the east that he had sold Woodbury in 1792, now the Basso farm. In 1795 Atherton sold Luther Harris 60 acres in the valley east of the mountain which eventually became the Hastings farm. In 1797 Jona. sold his brother 56 acres off the buildings, probably mountain land. In 1806 Seth Houghton purchased from him 30 acres of undivided or unlocated land presumably on the mountain. In 1816 he sold the Jewell lot to Joshua Martin, 27 acres for \$400, the lot being described in part as the field formerly occupied by Wm. Jewell now owned by Jehial Converse. But the

transaction of greatest interest to us was the sale of 100 acres of land to his brother Joseph Atherton of Harvard, Massachusetts, yeoman, in 1789 for 12 pounds.

Anyone looking up records knows how very confusing it can be if the grantee fails to get a deed recorded until long after the transaction takes place. Imagine the surprise that one gets when he discovers that this deed executed June 24, 1789, was not recorded in the Baltimore land records until May 28, 1831. We wonder why Joseph did not record his own deed while he was town clerk.

From a manuscript regarding the Atherton line loaned to the writer we read that Joseph Atherton "moved about 1786 to the independent State of Vermont, several years before its admission to the Union and settled at the foot of the south easterly side of Hawks Mountain." This would make him and Waldo Cheney the earliest settlers in Baltimore of whom we have any account.

Joseph worked here alone one or two summers clearing his land and erecting some buildings before moving here permanently. He married Anna Wheeler of Bolton, Mass., and their first child was born in their new home in Baltimore Dec. 16, 1788.

During the first year of their life in Baltimore there were no roads, and they were obliged to make their way through the forests by paths and marked trees. They had to travel long distances in order to purchase supplies for their family or to reach a mill for grinding grain, which was carried on horseback probably to Fort No. 4, now Charlestown, N. H. The distance was so great as to require the evening added to the day to enable them to reach the mill and return home.

The following incident and comments are quoted from the manuscript mentioned above.

"On one occasion of that kind, when nearing home, by moonlight, his horse came to a full stop at the appearance of a man standing directly in the path. Not leaving at the first order there was a hasty dismount and a second order with a threat to horsewhip if the path was not cleared at once, when the bear, which it proved to be, kindly came down from the erect position and took itself out of the way. Stout hearts had they who conscious of their ability to conquer all ordinary difficulties—leaving home and friends—had the courage to undertake, in the depths of an almost impenetrable wilderness, to make such a home as they had the good fortune to look upon and for a time enjoy in later years. To cut down and burn the forests, not merely by the acre but by the hundred acres, rolling the logs together for the reburning, removing the stone and with them building walls for fencing, preparing the ground for growing crops and erecting buildings, all to be accomplished by their own hands, in one lifetime, seems incredible. But such was their undertaking and such was the work they accomplished.

"All of that homestead, except such as nature formed and was found by them in the forest, was by them created and how they accomplished so much in the time allotted to them is the wonder.



"A good sized, comfortable story and a half frame house with dairy house and shed attached stood on an eminence westerly and well back from the road. West and southwest of the house was a thrifty orchard of apple and pear trees and among them not far from the house were a cider mill, carpenter and blacksmith shops—separate—and distillery for making cider brandy. Lower down and across the highway were spacious stables and barns with yards for cattle, enclosed by immense walls, as were most of the fields.

"They had two orchards and in one of them was an outdoor cellar, in which it was said could be stored one hundred barrels.

"The substantial walls which enclosed some of the fields may have suggested the idea, which it is said Joseph put into practice of breaking colts by harnessing one to a two-wheeled gig, or chaise without top, and turning it into one of the well-walled fields, there to tame itself by its own exertion. When the horse was accustomed to the situation, he would climb to the driver's place and undertake its guidance by way of the lines.

"A well of excellent water, drawn up by the usual pole or sweep of that time was near the door of the working and dairy rooms, back of the house. Their house and well-stocked farm would compare favorably with those of the average well-to-do farmer of a half century later, except as to such tools and machinery as the later date suggests.

"There were no drones in that household. The care of the dairy, its products and the ordinary household cares were looked upon as chores, to be out of the way in season for the day's labor or to be attended to after that was finished.

"The wool and linen cloth woven by their hands was made from thread of their spinning and though there was work, it could not have been monotonous or considered drudgery; where so much was accomplished there must have been a new and constant changing appearance of improvement in-doors and out, which must have been gratifying and attractive and even offering great temptation to overwork. To help make from the wilderness a comfortable and productive home was part of their everyday life and it would have puzzled themselves to tell which would reach the greater distance, the heavy flat-topped walls of the fields or the handsome 'fair white linen' cloth woven by the mother and her two daughters.

"The pleasure of their progress was not allowed to remain unalloyed and the tragedies of life sometimes came to them in a shocking manner as seems to have been characteristic of other branches of the Atherton family.

"Their eldest daughter—their second child—died in 1795 when about four years of age. When their eldest child, Barney, was in his seventeenth year and their third child Hannah was in her thirteenth year, the two were standing side by side in the front doorway of their home in Baltimore as a storm was passing, watching the flashes of the lightning. It struck them, throwing both violently out upon the ground, killing Barney instantly and rendering



his sister Hannah insensible though she revived after a time and finally recovered. A sad Saturday night, May 4th, 1805. The old long clock was stopped by the lightning at 4:45 P. M. showing when the life had gone out from their first-born—their greatest reliance on earth—the clock told when but who can tell why?

"Their only remaining son, Joseph, married Olive Ives in 1818. His father had bought the Glynn place the year before, 1817, and in 1822 Joseph Jr. bought it from his father and lived here until 1831 when he sold the farm to Willard Hastings. It was in Baltimore that three of Joseph Jr.'s children were born, the first one their only son Junius O. born in 1819 died when three months old and is buried in Baltimore cemetery. From Baltimore they moved to Greenbush in Weathersfield.

"In 1820 their eldest daughter, Hannah, married and removed to Ludlow, Vt., and four years later in 1824—their youngest daughter, Nancy, married Dr. Charles B. Chandler and settled in Tunbridge, Vt., leaving the heads of the family once more by themselves, though in a comfortable and pleasant home instead of the forest in which they commenced their married life.

"Then began a series of calamities which were the beginning of the end of many members of this family. In 1835 Isaac Ives, husband of Hannah, their eldest daughter, in an attack of melancholia, ended his life on 42nd birthday, by hanging himself in his barn—though a prosperous merchant and not in any way embarrassed.

"During the same year, 1835, their grandchild and daughter of Joseph and Olive (Ives) Atherton died by accident from a pin causing injury of the spine; the pin having been placed in the back of her desk by a mischievous boy in school, of course not intending such a result.

"In 1837 their youngest daughter Nancy (Atherton) Chandler, after a long and painful illness, died from encephaloid cancer, leaving two sons. In the spring of 1839 Joseph Atherton the father of the family and founder of the homestead in Baltimore, Vt., was stricken down by lung fever from which he died April 10th, 1839.

"Their son, Joseph Atherton of Greenbush, left his home to assist in the care of the old homestead and while attending to some plowing just below the barn was kicked by a horse from the effect of which he died August 23rd, 1839, his wife and two daughters surviving; after which the Baltimore home was disposed of and the mother with her eldest daughter her only surviving child, Hannah (Atherton) Ives, moved to the village of Chester, Vt., and lived with a cousin Barney A. Cook Esq. until the mother's death Sept. 18, 1875."

Asahel Smith was appointed administrator of the estate of Joseph Atherton Sr. When the property was sold to Fox Sherwin, thereby passing out of the Atherton family probably for all time, it was described as "the Homestead Farm whereof the said Joseph Atherton Sr. died seized and possessed and which he had owned and occupied for a long time previous to his death." There is a note of pathos



in these words when we consider the struggle that was made to acquire this homestead farm.

In a letter written in 1914 by the late Durant J. Boynton following a call made upon Hannah Atherton Baldwin in Los Angeles, Cal., he writes this in regard to her grandfather and father, Joseph and Joseph Jr. . . . . "Both these men were men of decided convictions and there was always something doing in any cause they advocated. This strong individuality has always been a redeeming trait of the Atherton family."

As this effort is primarily a town history, some mention should be made of the Athertons as townsmen. The records of early Baltimore bear much testimony as to the valuable assistance rendered the newborn town by Joseph Atherton.

The first paper to be recorded in Baltimore was the warning for the town meeting held Mar. 12, 1794, and Joseph Atherton's bold plain handwriting served him very well as town clerk. He was elected also selectman and lister. That was a busy year for the selectmen as they "lade out three rodes". Probably Joseph was convinced of the need of something besides bridal paths. The town voted 11 pounds L. M. for the use of the schools, but did not elect a school committee. The next year they elected Joseph Atherton as first of the school committee of three.

In 1796 Joseph was on the committee "to go and find the center of the town and if that will do to Bild a house to Set down a stake and if that wond do to find the next niest spot." We expect they found the center and set down the stake; then Joseph was on the committee to agree with Mr. Houghton for a "peece of land." Next, they agreed to elect a committee to take security of Mr. Houghton and another committee to divide it into three shares for chopping. It took exactly four meetings to accomplish just this, and at a fifth meeting if they did not vote to divide into two school districts north and south! They had to allow Joseph Atherton sixteen shillings for services in finding a center of the town. Served them right. In 1797, however, he was on the committee to divide the town. He probably found it easier to divide the town than to unite it.

In 1797 Joseph was on the committee to annex the northeast corner of Chester to the town of Baltimore; that plan failed. In 1800 the voters met in the new North schoolhouse. That year they elected Jonathan Woodbury town clerk, and after that Joseph Atherton was never again prominent in town affairs. True, he was often highway surveyor and always voted to some minor office but often was not sworn in.

In 1828 he was the member from Baltimore to attend the Constitutional Convention of the State of Vermont, the first man to receive that honor in town.

It is evident from the records that when land was sold for taxes at a vendue, Joseph was at the sale and bid it off, then sold the right he gained thereby for a very nominal sum. For instance, Joseph

sold Jewett Boynton all his right and title to 95 acres of land for \$2 (now the Thomas farm) which said Jewett was about to sell to Elijah Hildreth. This practice on Joseph's part might have been advantageous to the town as it kept all rights and titles in possession of a person interested in Baltimore as a town rather than those of a land speculator. However, Joseph was a large landholder other than that acquired by vendue.

In 1793 before the town was set off from Cavendish, Joseph sold Asa and Peter Robinson 100 acres or the northeast end of Levi Webster's right. This was the land south of Arthur Basso's and west of Frank Kendall's.

In 1807 he bought the Glynn place of 55 acres which he sold to Joseph Jr. in 1822. In 1806 he bought the Manasseh Boynton farm now known as the Field pasture, but sold it back to Manassah in 1808. That same year 1808 he bought 22 acres of Samuel Hastings in the hollow adjoining his farm, and that addition has remained a part of the Atherton farm "unto this day."

Joseph Atherton Jr. began his career as a public official in 1819, the year after he had married, when he was elected hayward. He was regularly elected to some office every year, but by this time there were more men interested and qualified to hold town office. He served as selectman in 1824 and superintendent of schools. In 1826 Joseph Jr. was elected representative to the legislature and must have been one of the youngest members of that assembly. During the years he lived on the Glynn Place, he was district clerk of the South School District. His penmanship was not so dignified and bold as his father's was as first town clerk. Probably the schools were already beginning to slight the second "R".

Baldwin genealogy brought forth the unwelcome revelation that little Hannah Aurelia Atherton first saw the light of day in Weathersfield, Vt., a few months after her parents moved from Baltimore. She was the kind of person any town would be proud to claim as a native. We still expect and do hereby declare that she attended our Baltimore school that fateful spring of 1839. Some interesting material has come to the writer concerning this daughter of the Baltimore Athertons which is herein included.

We are indebted to the late Mrs. Fred G. Field for a glimpse into the intimate life of this woman of strong personality. It appears Mrs. Baldwin on her trips east often visited at Mrs. Field's home. From the snapshot presented the writer of Mrs. Atherton, one might conclude from the strong features and stern expression of face there delineated that Mrs. Baldwin was the stern awe-inspiring type. Mrs. Field, however, declares her to have been one of the most delightful guests she ever entertained in her home.

Mrs. Field recalled that on one of Mrs. Atherton's visits they initiated her into the engrossing pleasures of playing "Anagrams", which was a new and popular game then. Mrs. Baldwin was very much enthused over the game and facetiously would apply herself promptly to washing the dinner dishes that they might the sooner get out the "cyard" table as she called it.



Mr. Baldwin was as inclined to be serious minded as his wife was given over to levity. Mrs. Field told that on one occasion a group of their friends came to their home purposely to give them a surprise party. Evidently Mr. Baldwin resented the idea of their coming unannounced, and deemed it an intrusion. But wife Hannah completely ignored him and his peeved manner and her vivacity, cordiality, ready wit and ability to meet the situation caused Mr. Baldwin's indisposition to be soon unnoticed and in no way a deterrent to the jollity of the evening.

Let us turn our attention now to Hannah Atherton Baldwin whom her pastor was glad to extol in the following letter.

“Los Angeles, California, January 31, 1940. My dear Mrs. Pollard, I am glad to respond to your request for information concerning Mrs. Hannah Atherton Baldwin.

“I was Mrs. Baldwin's pastor for a number of years in the Memorial Baptist Church in Los Angeles. She was very active in our missionary society and valuable in our church life for she was not afraid to speak out her convictions as to what she felt should be done.

“You know that many who might be leaders are hindered by timidity. When they hear how others talk they hate to oppose. But not she, for she had the courage of her convictions and people soon realized that she would back up in giving whatever she advocated. When we broke ground for the new church we gave her the honor of removing the first spadeful of earth. Later when other churches were started in this rapidly growing city, she aided in their building. To one she gave approximately \$6000 and though she was not a member of that church they voted to name it the ‘Atherton Baptist Church,’ a name it bears to this day.

“She deeded her beautiful home, worth perhaps \$30,000, to the Memorial Baptist Church of which she was a member, to be a parsonage for the church.

“The most notable of her gifts probably was the building of a home for ‘Aged and Needy Baptist Ministers and Missionaries’. At this time I was no longer her pastor but had become Pac. Coast Sec'y of the Am. Bapt. Foreign Mission Soc'y, yet she called me to see her, revealing what she had in mind, asked me to make it known at the approaching convention of South California Baptists. This service I was glad to render her. The news was received with joy and I have watched its buildings, opening and service with deep interest.

“Because the families of aged ministers greatly preferred the individual housing in small bungalows, rather than the large institutional building first erected, the original plot was sold with her approval at a very good figure and the money put into a new location in Alhambra, a suburb of Los Angeles, and so this large number of very beautiful and conveniently arranged bungalows was erected. Here is gathered a happy group of aged workers who have poured out their lives in service for others and it is a benediction to meet them.

"We of the West, which is still in the making, echo the call: 'Give us men to watch our mountains, Give us men to watch our plains. Men with empires in their vision and new eras in their brains.'

"But that is not all that is needed. We need a womanhood which can be transplanted to a new environment but whose deep roots still take hold in Christian home and church life. Women whom the possession of wealth does not harden into moral insensibility but who realize that treasure invested in lives and character outlasts gold hoarded in vaults.

"I hope you are rearing more young people today of the Hannah Atherton Baldwin type and will send them out to bless and inspire as she did.

Yours, Arthur W. Rider"

### Atherton Genealogy

Joseph Atherton (5)	Joseph (4)	Joseph (3)	Joshua (2)	James (1)
(b.) Harvard, Mass.		(m.)		Anna Wheeler
May 12, 1766		Oct. 2, 1788		(b.) Bolton, Mass.
(d.) Baltimore, Vt.				(d.) Chester, Vt.
Apr. 10, 1839			Sept. 18, 1845, Age 81 years	
Both buried in Baltimore Cemetery				

Their children all born in Baltimore:

1. Barney d. Baltimore May 4, 1805 Age 16.
2. Nancy d. Baltimore Feb. 6, 1795 Age 4 years—First grave to be made in cemetery according to inscription.
3. Hannah b. Aug. 22, 1793 m. 1st. Isaac Ives, Ludlow; 2nd. Barabas Beane.  
She died of cancer July 20, 1871 in Montpelier and buried there. No children.
4. Joseph Jr. b. 1794 m. Olive Ives, Ludlow d. in Baltimore Aug. 23, 1839 Age 45 years. Olive died Sept. 23, 1849 Age 51 years.

Their children:

1. Junius O. d. Oct. 15, 1820 Age 3 mo. buried with his parents in Baltimore cemetery.
2. Nancy d. Jan. 15, 1835 buried in Greenbush.
3. Olive Florella m. Sumner H. Boynton, uncle of Durant J. Boynton.  
Lived with her Aunt Hannah Deane in Ascutneyville. Died about 1865. No children so far as known.
4. Hannah Aurelia b. Weathersfield Sept. 23, 1831 m. Feb. 29, 1852 to Osgood MacFarland Baldwin, in California she died. One child—Lillie Anna b. Oct. 9, 1855 in Illinois d. Mar. 7, 1857 in Charlotte, Vt.
5. Nancy b. Nov. 19, 1797 m. Nov. 3, 1824 Dr. Chas. Buckley Chandler of Chester son of Henry d. Nov. 11, 1837 in Tunbridge, Vt.



Their children were:

1. Charles Buckley b. Sept. 11, 1825 d. Sept. 4, 1826.
2. Charles Marcellus b. July 1, 1827 m. May 15, 1860 Abigail J. Hazen.

They had two children:

- (1) Charles E. Chandler, M. D.—His sons were Chas. P. Chandler, M. D., Hazen A. Chandler, Chicago.
- (2) Anna J. Chandler m. Franklin A. Dwinell, June 5, 1894 b. Oct. 17, 1863 d. 1942 in Montpelier, Vt.
3. George Cornelius b. Aug. 16, 1831 m. 1st. Margaret Sears; 2nd Mary Smith.

It will be seen that Hannah, the third child of Joseph and Anna Atherton, outlived the other members of the family. At the time of her death, 1871, there were only five living descendants of Joseph and Anna viz:

1. Charles M. Chandler, M. D.  
His two children:
  2. Charles E. Chandler, M. D.  
and
  3. Anna J. Chandler
4. Hannah A. Baldwin of Pana, Ill.
5. George C. Chandler, New York

#### Atherton Villa

Years ago a Baptist girl who had been recently married but was still in her teens accidentally overheard the prayers of two ministers who were guests in her home. Breakfast was ready and she had gone to call them to it, when she heard them in prayer. Waiting until the prayer was finished, she involuntarily heard the subject of their pleading. They were very poor; they had given their lives to the service of the Lord; salaries during the years of service were barely sufficient for living expenses; they were at an age where their services were no longer acceptable to the churches; they were facing destitution and distress in their poverty. In the quiet of their room they were laying their need before the Lord.

She was so impressed and saddened by that which was not intended for her ears and to which she was an involuntary listener, that she then and there conceived the idea of trying to earn and save enough money to erect some day a building which would be especially set apart as a Home for Aged Ministers and Missionaries and their wives.

She and her young husband were poor, and it was many years before they were blessed with sufficient financial ability to enable her to carry out this idea, but the time finally came when the girlhood dream was a possibility and Atherton Villa, erected by Mrs. Hannah Atherton Baldwin, is the fulfillment of that dream.

Realizing that such an institution would require generous support and wishing that it should be under the control and direction of the Baptist denomination, she proposed to set aside the necessary land, erect the building and place the entire property in the possession of

the Southern California Baptist Convention. This proposal was made to the Convention at its annual meeting at San Diego, January 1914, and was received with the favor and rejoicing which it deserved.

It would be hard to find a site more beautifully situated than that selected at Burbank, eleven miles from Los Angeles, with the mountains just in the background and the picturesque San Fernando Valley stretching away for miles in the foreground.

Here a building of ample size and specifically designed for the purpose has been erected, building and grounds being valued at \$50,000. The Burbank Line of the Pacific Electric R. R. has its terminal directly in front of the building, making it easy of access. The Southern Pacific R. R. station is also near by and the San Fernando Boulevard passes within two blocks.

There are sixty living rooms in the building together with spacious reception room, assembly hall, dining room, kitchen, laundry and baggage room. Bathrooms are on every floor. The living rooms are large, well-lighted and screened, equipped with steam heat, electric light, hot and cold water and electric call bells. There are private toilets and lavatories in every room, and the ventilating system is considered perfect. Thirty rooms are large enough for occupancy by two people and have built-in beds. The other rooms are somewhat smaller, are intended for occupancy by single individuals and will need to be equipped with beds.

The ground is ample for gardens, fruit and poultry raising. The maintenance of the building will require a large endowment and necessitate a very considerable annual expenditure when it is occupied to its fullest capacity.

At the present moment a considerable number of aged Baptist ministers and their wives are simply waiting and hoping for the privilege of spending a few years at the close of life's afternoon in this Home which has been so generously provided. They, like those ministers of long ago, have spent their lives in the Master's service. They have wrought well. The meager salaries they have received as they have thus labored have been sufficient to supply their immediate necessities only, with nothing to lay aside for the necessities of age. Now they can no longer serve the churches acceptably. They are poor because they have turned aside from money-getting pursuits to enrich the lives of others. They are too old to work; they cannot beg. With them old age, poverty and want go hand in hand.

It is a splendid thing which Mrs. Baldwin has done. Brethren and Sisters of the Baptist denomination, the gift of this Home should be an inspiration to us; the need of these aged people spells both opportunity and obligation. Will YOU immediately help to furnish the rooms and provide the money necessary to care for these dear saints? Will you make it possible for your Convention Board to say to these needy men and women, "Come to Atherton Villa and you shall have home and care and comfortable provision for your necessities"?



### The Hastings Farm

Something there is about a cellar hole that holds a charm for the writer, particularly if it is known that a family once lived there. It gives stimulus to the imagination and many a fantastic plot can be woven around a spot that was once the home of parents, and children who knew the joys, the rigors, the sorrows, as they faced life's vicissitudes!

The writer's father used to recount for her satisfaction (and his own as well) the different cellar holes in Baltimore which mark the sites of early habitations. For these many years it has been known that a family by the name of Hastings used to live down in the hollow east of the Sherwin place. But when the time came that the writer earnestly sought information concerning this family only one person living could be found who knew a member of this family in the flesh, that was the late Everett H. Redfield who remembered that one Almena Hastings used to live at his Aunt Jane Carleton's in North Springfield and the town of Baltimore paid her board. Sad, but true.

Weird tales have come down that the father Hastings hanged himself in the barn, that that building stood many years and was said to be haunted. Such a happening would add color to this narrative; so far as known to the writer there is no one to object if such a tradition were treated as a fact. Leaving the possibility of a suicide to the reader's imagination, only hard unyielding facts from the records will form the basis of this sketch.

In 1795 one Samuel Hastings of Charlestown, N. H., purchased from Joshua Martin a parcel of land containing 62 acres. Samuel married a Mary Martin who was sister of Joshua Jr. and Ephraim Martin who came with their families about this time to live in Baltimore. As already stated this land lay in the hollow and extended 130 rods along Joseph Atherton's east line.

In the 1800 census we find Samuel Hastings listed as having a family of eight—2 boys, 4 girls under 16, one man and one woman between 26 and 45, doubtless himself and wife. The only ones of the children we know were Almena, Socrates, and Willard, Socrates being the baby.

Had Samuel been more active in the town's affairs this sketch might have been longer. He held few town offices, but in 1816 school records we read the following, "10thly, Voted to rase ten corde harde wood three feete long split and corded att the north Sctchool hous in Baltimore by the first day of Jany next to be Divided on the scholler. Bid of the wood to Samuel Hastings for sixty four cents the cord." How was that for a money-making proposition? In this winter of 1944 wood choppers are getting \$6 per cord for cutting four-foot wood. Evidently Samuel was not utterly discouraged because of price as in 1820 he bid off the wood at fifty cents per cord.

In 1808 Samuel had sold 22 acres off the northern end of his tract to Joseph Atherton which left his acreage rather small. We con-

clude there never was a road built to his place as it was voted not to collect a highway tax from Samuel Hastings so long as he did not demand a road. Some signs of a road still exist leading from the hollow up through the Eaton pasture to the "old road," then a leading thoroughfare of the town.

Perhaps Samuel, not having even the end of a road, lacked all incentive to repair or build a better house. In 1828 we find his house was valued at only \$17.46, the lowest one in town. He was taxed on 2 oxen, 2 cows and 1 watch.

No changes appear in his grand list for the next two years, same house, same cattle.

Oct. 31, 1830, Samuel died aged 69 years. No more does the house appear in the grand lists for appraisal; it might have burned, more likely it fell down.

Next we find Mother Mary (now called Polly) living on the Glynn place with her son Willard who had bought that farm from Joseph Atherton Jr. in 1830. That Willard was well-educated for his time is evinced by the creditable manner in which he as district clerk kept the school records of the South District as long as he lived in town. Willard Hastings and Joseph Atherton Jr. married sisters, Lorena and Olive Ives. Willard also did some surveying in this locality; the road by the present schoolhouse was surveyed by him.

In 1835 Willard Hastings sold his farm here to Matthew Chaplin and moved to New York State. He had evidently prospered during the years he lived on the Glynn place; in 1831 he had 2 oxen and 2 cows, perhaps they were the very same ones his father had owned. By 1835 he had 2 oxen, 7 cows, 4 2-yr.-olds, 2 horses, 1 colt and 46 sheep.

The financial status of the three known Hastings offspring provides interesting reading because of the contrasts thereby depicted.

When Willard and his mother Polly moved to Whitehall, N. Y., they left behind them several aggrieved creditors, it appears. One was brother Socrates who served a writ of attachment "on eighty sheep and one half or moiety of eight other sheep", stating plainly in the writ that four other attachments preceded his. Two other attachments followed, but no further mention was made of the sheep in them. The records fail to state whatever became of them.

April 8, 1836, Polly Hastings and son Willard still of Whitehall sold the 40 acres of the old Hastings farm to Phineas C. Robinson, and fifteen days later Robinson sold it to Socrates Hastings, so the latter then owned the homestead acres on which he first saw the light of day. But Socrates was not a man of lingering sentiment regarding his birthplace; in Nov. 1840 he sold it back to the Robinsons.

Sister Almena's story is rather pathetic probably through no fault of her own. Evidently she never married. During her last days she was boarded in North Springfield at the expense of the town. An entry appears where the overseer of the poor received



sixty cents one time for her labor. She died Jan. 9, 1869, in Baltimore, of consumption, aged 71 yrs. 10 months.

Socrates was the boy who saved his money. In 1829 he had \$100 to his credit, in 1831 that amount was increased to \$500, in 1833 to \$800 and in 1834 to \$1000. In 1835-'36 he was living in Weathersfield. In 1837 he had a cow, a 2-year-old and \$15 to be taxed, but now owned the old farm. But he was soon back to \$800, then to \$1000 for taxation again in 1838-39. By 1840 he had left town.

Like his brother, Socrates married into a good family, too, when he married Betsey Chaplin the sister of Matthew and Prudence Chaplin Litch. She must have died young as she was not mentioned in her father David Chaplin's will made in 1840. It may be recalled that David Chaplin sold his son Matthew in 1835 one-half of all his property which included his land, buildings, privileges and appurtenances. The very next year Matthew sold his half of everything to his brother-in-law Socrates Hastings. Whereupon father David two months later bought back the property from Socrates and made a new deal with Matthew.

Several records are found wherein Socrates was named as mortgagee, not only in Baltimore, but in adjoining towns. He became in reality a moneylender. He grew up in the poorest house in town that probably knew much deprivation if not actual want. How rich he must have felt over that first \$1000! Socrates Hastings sold Reuben Bemis the house in which the latter died—now owned by Duane Allen.

The most ornate headstone in the Baltimore cemetery marks the last resting-place of Socrates Hastings who died Oct. 1, 1856, age 57. He is buried beside his father who also has a good headstone. Beside them is a well-defined grave marked only by field stones, in which sister Almena probably rests, as peacefully as does her brother. The mother went farther west and died in Paw Paw, Ill., aged 92 yrs. The burial place of Betsey, wife of Socrates, is unknown.

Benjamin Page

*(Dan Rich Farm)*

*(Settled First Below the Roy Olney Farm)*

If the reader will refer to the section of this effort relating to the formation and organization of Baltimore, we will find listed among the nineteen families that comprised the town in 1794 the name of Ebenezer Allen as the head of a family then residing in the eastern side of town. We should be proud and happy to be able to state that the above-mentioned Ebenezer was the identical hero of the Green Mountain Boys or at the least a relative of that famous individual. So far, all efforts to prove some family connections of that sort have been fruitless. Suffice it to know that in 1793 one Ebenezer Allen did own a 100 acre tract, the northern 50 acres of which he sold to Moses Bates on June 28, 1793. Moses after "improving" the same sold it to Stephen Robinson of Lunenburg, Mass.,



April 4, 1796. It was April 7, 1796, that Ebenezer Allen still of Baltimore sold the southern 50 acres to Benjamin Page of Lunenburg. All this land was bounded on the east by the Weathersfield town line.

It is interesting to note how many of the early settlers of Baltimore came from Lunenburg. Besides Stephen Robinson and his bride Dorothy and Benjamin Page, there was Amos Page brother of Benjamin who came before 1800, the Martins, Joshua Jr. and Ephraim, who came in 1794, the latter bringing ten children, Benjamin Litch in 1798. Manasseh Boynton came from Fitchburg in 1799. Luther Graves was originally from Leominster, Mass., the last-named two towns adjoining Lunenburg. It will be recalled that the original proprietors of Cavendish were mostly residents of Lunenburg, Mass., and perhaps the slogan there and then was, "Go north, young man." Perhaps young Benjamin rode along on the same sled with Stephen and Dorothy in true neighborly fashion.

The boundaries specified in the deed from Ebenezer Allen to Benjamin Page were not very definite—"containing fifty acres lying and bounding as follows (viz.) East on the east line of Baltimore aforesaid and North on land deeded to Stephen Robinson by Moses Bates, West on Noah Piper's South on land formerly owned by John Graves." The deed was signed, sealed, delivered and witnessed entirely by Baltimore men. Benjamin's farm included what is now the late Emerson Leland and the late Angeline Rumrill pastures.

Thus did Benjamin become the nearest neighbor of the Robinsons on the south, and it is interesting to know that for many years the road passed directly by the dwelling houses of both Benj. Page and Stephen Robinson. The present road, which was built in 1851, severed the original Benj. Page farm in twain, and until that date the road out of town passed by Benj. Page's across the town line into Weathersfield, then up past the Harris place, across the pastures by the Stevens place, then down to the road above Angeline Rumrill's homestead. Loren Olney in his late seventies, being agile of foot and historically minded, informed the writer that once at least each summer for many years he had followed this old road by its sluiceways, etc., into Baltimore. The cellar hole of the Page house can be seen and plainer still can be seen the cellar hole and door stone of the other house located near and in what is now the same pasture—the Perkins house. According to the late Ernest Butterfield, in the 1810 Weathersfield tax list the Perkins house was better than Rumrill's, judged from its valuation.

Benjamin's tract was a narrow strip extending south 145 rods until it reached the Governor's farm. Filled with high and holy ambition to own more land, in 1803 he bought a strip 100 rods long and 32 rods wide from Levi Davis off the northern end of the Governor's farm and adjoining his land on the south. His first farm was shaped like an L written backwards. Benjamin may have come to Baltimore as a bachelor, but, unlike many of his



colleagues, he did not return to Massachusetts to seek a wife, as he married Waldo Cheney's oldest daughter Huldah, born in 1779.

We find that in 1801 Benjamin had bought the Jonathan and Rachel Burnam homestead where Dan Rich now lives—51 $\frac{1}{3}$  acres "by masure" for \$510. The price paid would indicate that the buildings on these premises were not valued highly. The Burnams had a family of ten children in 1800, so must have had some sort of habitation for them.

We are quite positive that Benjamin Page built the fine old brick house that used to stand on the present Dan Rich farm and from bricks made in his own brick yard in the same field as the buildings now are and close to its western boundary. The main part of the house stands out clearly in the writer's memory and was very similar in plan and size to the main part of the house built by William Davis in which the writer now lives. The gable end of the Page house faced the road. A spacious hall ran the width of the house with two big square rooms on either side upstairs as well as down. The front door opened toward the east. The barns were conveniently built below the road, and the house situated on a pleasant elevation above the road commanded then, as now, a marvelous view of the scenery to the south. In the 1828 grand list Benj. Page's house and Earle Woodbury's were appraised for \$271.60, the highest in town.

This house was the probable birthplace of the nine Benjamin Page children whose names were: Huldah—died young, buried in No. Springfield cemetery d. Sept. 2, 1838, age 26 yrs.; Lorinda—married Harvey Bigelow; Caroline—married 1st. Jewett Boynton, 2nd Baxter Burrows; Martha—married Samuel Axtell; Eliza—married Luke Stoughton; Asa; Emery H.; Benjamin P.; Lucius H. The two last named boys lived at home for some time after becoming of age.

In 1811 Benj. sold a piece 93 rods long off the southern end of the backward L to Simeon Rumrill who lived on the Harris place, this tract being 42 acres by "meashure." But not until 1833 did he sell the remainder of his first farm to Jacob and Elisha Perkins.

In 1815 he began to increase his holdings with a purchase of 25 acres off the west end of his father-in-law Cheney's farm. In 1830 he bought nearly three acres further up the mountain bordering this field, also in 1830 he bought 3 acres on the north of this old farm to the mountain, in 1831 5 acres from Samuel Dutton on mountain. It is a matter worthy of note that after the titles on the four parcels of land above mentioned had changed several times in about one hundred years this land was, and still is, owned by a great-granddaughter of Mr. Page, Addie Boynton Leland and her daughter Mrs. Fred Clark, both of North Springfield.

By this time Benj. owned quite a large farm with plenty of pasturage which he and subsequent owners used for sheep. The mountain sides sloping to the south afforded cheap and early feed for sheep which was a profitable business in Vermont in the 1830's

Benjamin was one of the town's biggest farmers. In 1828 (the earliest grand list book available) he kept livestock as follows: 4 oxen, 7 cows, 7 2-year-olds, 3 horses, 1 2-yr.-old colt and 1 yearling colt, besides 25 sheep. His livestock numbered about the same from year to year, but his amount of money on hand to be taxed varied, \$200 in 1829, \$400 in 1830. In 1831 and 1832 he had the highest balance for taxation of any man in town. This continued to be the case nearly every year. In 1835 no poll tax was assessed against Benj. as he was now over 60, but in 1836 his son Benj. P. Page began paying a poll tax, so we infer he was twenty-one. In 1837 Father Benj's. balance reached the highest peak of \$118.50, exceeding all others by about \$10. The next year he had evidently sold all his livestock except one cow and two horses, but he had \$1500 in money on which he was taxed.

In 1838 Benj. purchased of Aaron Houghton of Jay, N. Y., the 6 acres 52 rods which had once belonged to Calvin Houghton. Benjamin had sold his farm but may have preferred to keep some of his money invested in the good earth.

In 1839 none of the Benj. Page family was taxed in Baltimore. Isaac Williams had bought the place in 1837, and Benjamin, probably in very poor health, moved to Weathersfield. We suspect he and his wife were living with their son Lucius when Benjamin died November 17, 1840.

Lucius was appointed administrator of his father's estate and was granted a license on Mar. 8, 1841, to sell his father's real estate. It appears after his father's decease Lucius had caused the mortgage on the farm against Williams to be foreclosed, but the next day after obtaining his license to sell he deeded to him all the real estate in Baltimore, "Being the homestead farm formerly owned and occupied by the said Benj. Page deceased", for \$1522. The same day Huldah Page for \$100 sold Williams "all the right, title, interest, property, estate or demand" which she had in said premises. This is the last land transaction recorded for the Benj. Page family in Baltimore.

In the North Springfield cemetery Benjamin is buried and has a headstone as does his daughter Huldah, but no headstone is there to mark the final resting place of the Widow Huldah. It is most unlikely that she is buried beside her husband and no headstone provided for her as she left a large family of children, some one of whom undoubtedly would have attended to that matter of respect. We are led to think she may have gone west with some of her children and died there.

While Benjamin was living on his farm away to the east, his interest in town affairs was not very evident. In 1798 he was elected lister and highway surveyor. No other office of importance did he hold until 1803. March 1st of that year his name is listed with the twelve freemen who brought in their votes for a representative to Congress. This must have been a special meeting. On Mar. 7 of that same year we read this significant item in the records



of the town meeting held that day, "voted to adjourn sd meeting to Mr. Benjamin Page's Dwelling House." By this we know Benjamin had moved to the Jonathan Burnam place he had purchased in 1801. The town meetings had been held in the North schoolhouse beginning with 1800. That schoolhouse was built next to Joseph Atherton's eastern boundary, "opposite the brick yard" and in plain view of Benjamin Page's house. It does not require too much imagination to surmise that Mar. 7, 1803, was a cold wintry day and that the legal voters were frozen out; so they sought refuge in Benjamin's dwelling house.

Perhaps they sought to repay Benjamin for his hospitality that day by showering him with town office. (*We wonder if Huldah and the youngsters did not listen in, or would Huldah be as immodest as to do that A. M. P.*) At any rate they made him treasurer, surveyor of highways and pound-keeper. He was re-elected treasurer fourteen years in succession or until 1817. All of these years but three he also served as selectman. In 1822 he was again elected treasurer which office he held for five years. It was in 1825 that Benjamin began to keep a record of the orders he paid in a book which has been handed down to us. Every order is written in full; bookkeeping in those days was a slow laborious process. If there was any virtue or any praise in serving as pound-keeper, Benjamin was entitled to much of both as he held that office practically all the time he lived in the brick house. His "leanter" was sufficient and convenient evidently.

But the greatest honor to be experienced by Benj. Page was to be elected the first town representative to the Vermont Legislature in 1824. Though clearly unconstitutional it was arranged by the legislature which set Baltimore off from Cavendish in 1793 that those two towns should unite in electing one representative to the General Assembly. It was not until 1824 or thirty-one years after Baltimore became a separate town that she exerted her prerogative to have a representative of her own, and Benjamin Page was thus honored.

It would appear that all the legal voters in town turned out to elect Benjamin, at least twenty-eight names appeared on the check list.

Benj. Page was present and answered the roll call of the General Assembly Oct. 14, 1824. A perusal of the House Journal for that year shows him to have been present and voting at all times of yea and nay votes. He and Benjamin Litch were elected justices of the peace by the legislature of that year. Much interesting legislation was considered that session. The bill to abolish imprisonment for debt handed down from the previous session was duly considered; then action was postponed on the measure until the following legislature. Final enactment of this bill into law did not occur until 1838. Suitable plans were made for the invitation and entertainment of Lafayette, "the now venerable apostle of liberty", during his visit to Vermont. Mr. Page obtained leave of absence for the



rest of the session on Nov. 5. Thus for the first time in history was Baltimore as a separate town represented in the General Assembly.

Some mention should be made of the brick yard as that constitutes the one and only manufacturing enterprise ever established in Baltimore unless we include the cider mill operated by Earle and Jonathan Woodbury. Just how extensive or how long the brick business continued is not known to the writer. Some years ago it was her privilege and pleasure to talk with Charles A. Leland, a native of Baltimore then living in Springfield, Vt. He recalled his school days in the North District schoolhouse and remembered the brick yard distinctly. Two houses in town were built from bricks made there, Benj. Page's which burned in 1901 and Levi Piper's on the Carrigan place burned a few years earlier. Strange that both of them should fall prey to devastating fires, made as they were of durable materials.

From the N. Springfield Baptist Church History we learn that the Axtells, the Stoughtons, the Bigelows, and the Jewett Boynton Jr. family went to Union, Wis. Jewett Boynton Jr. was instantly killed July 28, 1865, by being thrown from his buggy.

Amos Page Family  
(*The Upham Lot*)

The cellar hole which marks the location of the homestead of the Amos Page family happens to be on land owned at the present time by the writer herself. A worthy citizen of a nearby community once remarked in her hearing, "You'll find plenty of people willing to trace relationship to Benjamin Page, but his brother Amos wasn't so enterprising."

A study of the records confirms this statement. But one who has observed and tilled the land once owned by Amos has expressed this opinion often—"There's been a lot of work done by somebody in the past on those fields. Stones no bigger than eggs can be seen on the stone heaps, some of the piles being where there is now a sturdy growth of woods."

Those well-laid walls and heaps of stone bear evidence to the industry and perseverance of Amos Page. True, he was not the first to occupy the land as he purchased the same from Joel and Sally Greene in 1805, who in turn had bought the upper tract of 34 acres where the house was located from Matthew Griswold and the lower part of 50 acres from Manasseh Boynton. When Amos bought this land, it was encumbered by a mortgage to William Upham which Amos was "to clear out at his risque and charge."

In 1818 Amos living in Roxbury, Essex Co., Mass., was given a quit-claim deed by Upham which stated that "he and his heirs shall be forever hereafter barred and secluded" from the quit-claimed premises.

We expect Amos was a bachelor all these years. The following data is copied from the Robinson genealogy, these Robinsons being some of the very first settlers in the West District:



Children of Peter Robinson and Jane Carlton Robinson. No. 1 Nancy Robinson born at Andover, Mass. Sept. 13, 1781. Nancy Robinson (Parker) married to Amos Page about 1813. Amos Page born at Lunenburg, Mass. June 20, 1779. Nancy Robinson (Parker) died at Quincy, Mass. Dec. 11, 1860 age 78 years and 3 months.

Amos was not a young man when he brought Nancy to Baltimore as a bride. That they had quite a large family is shown by the school records. In 1834 Amos had six children between the ages of four and eighteen to go to school. That may have been the peak as in 1835 the number was reduced to five. There is not a way of learning the names of the Amos Page children except as here and there a name appears in the records where the boys took the Freeman's Oath or held an occasional town office. The names of Benjamin Page's boys are known because of their father's will, but an Abel, Raymond, George, William and Dana Page are mentioned that were probably sons of Amos. Girls' names seldom appeared on the early town records and only a few of the vital statistics were kept until 1857. Raymond Page at one time held a deed to Horace Martin's farm and was listed several years for a poll tax.

In perusing those early grand lists hope and admiration run high for Amos. He kept more stock according to his acres than did most of his neighbors. Evidently he liked horses and probably had a brood mare as he generally had one to three colts and often as many as four horses besides always a yoke of oxen. The year 1835 he had 2 oxen, 5 cows, 2 2-yr.-olds, 2 horses, 3 colts and 28 sheep.

No wonder the fields show thorough cultivation at some time. To raise the feed by old-time methods to winter so much stock on a small farm of 84 acres including pasture and woodland was no mean accomplishment. In 1842 he had \$183 personal property in excess of debts owing. But alas! Old age for Amos was fraught with poverty and poor health.

In 1843 to settle the expenses of some litigation he mortgaged his farm for \$57.71. The next year he placed two more mortgages on it. The mortgage was increased in each of the two succeeding years. About this time the overseer of the poor petitioned the Probate Court to appoint a guardian over Amos.

In 1848 he sold the farm to John White the storekeeper in North Springfield for \$1100. This may have been a fair price as the house was never valued over \$97.

By 1854 Amos was being helped by the town of Baltimore, and we wonder where he lived as White sold the place inside of a week to Nahum Knight, the late Horace Knight's father. In 1855 Amos must have been ill as his son Raymond was paid for board and an extra sum for nursing. One year the overseer paid a bill of thirty-eight cents for rum and sugar for Amos Page. But that did not effect a cure.

He died March 17, 1860, age 76 yrs. 9 mo. in Baltimore at the home of the Bemises. His wife died in December of that same year

in Quincy, Mass. Possibly she had not lived in Baltimore for some time as no town aid was shared by her.

It has been told their son George was a cripple from his youth and for a time was in destitute circumstances. When the railroads were built, George took up the idea of peddling popcorn and other light refreshments in the passenger trains. His efforts met with success and George became quite prosperous.

Nahum Knight moved to town with his large family in 1848. In 1857-'58 he was entitled to send six boys to school: Lucius, Marvin G., George F., Pliny E., Harrison J., and Henry. Sad to relate Pliny E. was the only one of these boys to grow up.

Nahum's wife was Sarah Williams and her father Isaac Williams had bought and was then living on the Benjamin Page farm.

Nahum was a carpenter by trade. He built the new house on the Sherwin place and conceived the plan for a new house of his own. He purchased about two acres across the road from the Amos Page house, dug a cellar and started the new building when he was stricken with typhoid fever from which he died Aug. 27, 1858. His son George F. also died Sept. 1, 1858. The widow sold the property back to White, and the new house was sold before it was finished. Horace Knight was born Dec. 24, 1858, after his father had died. The house was taken down and moved to Gould's Mills, thus ending perhaps for all time one of the earliest homesteads in Baltimore.

### Waldo Cheney Farm

Noah Piper has been mentioned in a historical sketch as one of the three first settlers in what is now Baltimore, Vt. The Cavendish records show that he was living in that town, later known as Baltimore, in 1788. Waldo Cheney must have been one of those three as his name appears on the records as early as 1786 in a deed in which he purchased from one Jonathan Blanchard 300 acres on Oliver Willard's right. This Willard was one of the 66 original proprietors of Cavendish, his right being "over Hawks Mt." (or Baltimore). Each proprietor's right consisted of 312 acres; so it is probable that Waldo Cheney owned the entire right. This tract has been known for years as the Graves place. Evidently he desired less land instead of more. In 1796 he sold his right and title to 50 acres of land on Oliver Willard's right, now known as the Roy Olney farm, to a Moses Bates for 12 shillings, also in the same year he sold his right to 20 acres to a Moses Hale for \$2.00. In 1795 Joseph Morse had paid Waldo Cheney 12 shillings for 80 acres on the Oliver Willard right. This land is now known as the Upham lot. It will be noted that these parcels of land were on the Oliver Willard right which Waldo Cheney had bought in 1786.

He may have sold these parcels of land previous to the beginning of Baltimore records in 1794. If taxes on land became overdue, it was the custom to sell such lands at a vendue to satisfy the amount of the taxes then due upon said lands. This procedure may explain



the many instances on record where an individual deeded his right to certain parcels of land for a few shillings, usually twelve. Of course this small amount of money did not represent the real value of the lands. They were vendued off probably for taxes, and Mr. Cheney was there to bid them off. He sold the right he gained thereby at a small profit possibly.

In 1801 Waldo Cheney sold Matthew Griswold 10 acres of land for \$50 which might have been the upper mowings of the Upham lot beside the road, and Matthew Griswold in turn sold Mr. Cheney 13½ acres for \$150. In 1802 the town of Baltimore purchased 9 square rods of land of Waldo Cheney for \$5 for a cemetery. These appear to be all the land transactions of Mr. Cheney until he sold 180 acres to Luther Graves in 1815 and moved away.

It is interesting to know that the Cheney or Graves farm has had three distinct sets of buildings. We do not know that Waldo Cheney built his first habitation, which was located on the same side of the road as the present house but across the hollow in the mowing west from it. The foundations of that first habitation used to be discernible and were located among the clump of apple trees near the pasture wall near the source of the then as now water supply.

They may not have been very substantial buildings because in 1799 we read in the town meeting records that Waldo Cheney was elected pound-keeper and that "Waldo Cheney's old house shall be the pound for the North districe." The same record was made in 1800. It is safe to infer that Mr. Cheney had his new house built previous to March 1799. This was located on the same side and below the barns recently removed by the present owner. A beautiful hedge of thickly growing lilacs now outlines the cellar hole of that new home that was probably the pride and joy of the Cheney family in the early 1800's. In these days of sanitary precautions one might object to having a house on the same slope but lower than the barn, but it was sheltered, pleasant and commodious. This was the house into which Zenas and Emily Graves moved in 1860 and in which Luther, the father, reserved the two southwest rooms for his own occupancy.

Men can buy tracts of land and sell them and do not greatly affect the history of the town; but when a man erects new buildings to take the place of old, he becomes a benefactor of the community. And when, as was the case with Mr. Cheney, he strives earnestly to establish a strong government for a newly born town he deserves the commendation of all who follow in his train.

He was elected as first selectman at the first town meeting held in Baltimore, March 12, 1794, at his house. At various times he held some of all the usual town offices except town clerk. He served as tithing man, hog-reeve, hayward and collector of rates. His was the first name on that first committee to divide the town into two school districts, also on the committee to take security of Mr. Houghton for 2 acres of land for a schoolhouse and to divide the same into three shares for chopping.

According to the records his activities as a town official grew less with his advancing years, but his oldest son Lothrop assumed some of the town offices.

Just where Mr. and Mrs. Cheney took up their residence after leaving Baltimore is not known, but it was in Weathersfield, Vt., near Springfield, we are told. For several years they were members of the Baptist Church in North Springfield, Priscilla being a member when the church was first organized. Both are buried in that cemetery. The following inscriptions appear upon their tombstones, which are embellished with weeping willows carved at the top of each:

Waldo Cheney  
July 31, 1834  
Age 85 yrs.

Priscilla Cheney  
Sept. 4, 1841  
Age 88 yrs.

### Cheney Genealogy

Waldo Cheney b. 1749 in Woodstock, Conn. m. Priscilla Bowen b. July 2, 1753 in Woodstock, Conn. They were married in Brookfield, Mass., Sept. 3, 1778.

Mr. Cheney was a corporal in Capt. Manning's 7th. Co., Col. Israel Putnam's regiment. Discharged Dec. 14, 1775.

Priscilla Bowen was 24 yrs. old when her parents moved to Brookfield where she was married. It was probably her brother Daniel, b. 1750, who first owned the Frank Kendall place. Her sister Jerusha married Capt. Isaac Gilbert of Cavendish Feb. 13, 1792.

Children of Waldo and Priscilla Cheney:

Huldah b. 1779 m. Benj. Page, Baltimore, Vt. Her sketch will appear with the Page family.

Lothrop b. 1781 m. Phebe Martin of Baltimore d. 1881 at Stoughton, Wisconsin, in the 100th year of his age. During their early married life they lived in North Springfield in the Willard Leland house now owned by Addie Leland. Phebe Martin was the aunt of Horace Martin. They had two daughters, Nancy and Mary. A son of Lothrop and Phebe Cheney died Mar. 20, 1823, also Amanda died Jan. 12, 1825, aged 2 months.

The school records of North Springfield state that Lothrop Cheney sent his two girls to that school from 1839 to 1843 and was school committeeman in 1840. In 1845 and 1846 only Mary attended school. The writer has been told that Lothrop and his family were taking a carriage trip for pleasure into Massachusetts. Nancy was taken desperately ill of scarlet fever and died before reaching home. She was buried in the Plains Cemetery, 1846, at the age of 20. Mary Cheney taught in N. Springfield in 1846, 12 weeks of summer school for \$22 including board. In 1849 Mary Cheney died at the age of 19 and was buried beside her sister.

Horace Martin named his little daughter, b. 1854, Mary Cheney Martin. She is now the widow of Rev. A. J. Hop-



kins. Lothrop Cheney, now childless, wished to adopt her but in vain.

Mr. Cheney and wife went to Wisconsin where he became very wealthy. He lived to a good old age and was totally blind before his death. He did not wish his property to be evenly divided among his nieces and nephews but believed in making a few of his heirs wealthy. Augusta Boynton James the sister of Francis Wayland Boynton was one of those fortunate beneficiaries.

Other children born to Waldo and Priscilla Cheney were:

Wealthy bears the distinction of being the first girl baby born (Mar. 14, 1789) in the town of Baltimore before its organization. She died young.

Dorothy (Dolly) m. Jesse Clark.

Daniel Bowen d. in childhood.

Theodosia m. Capt. Foster Henry, Perkinsville, Vt., d. in Perkinsville and buried in Plains Cemetery. Her son Hyren b. 1809 d. 1881, was a school master, taught Baltimore South District in 1830. Lived in Perkinsville and made freestone stoves. He represented Weathersfield in the state legislature in 1846-'47 and 1864-'65.

Roxey m. Gideon Chapin d. Dec. 11, 1813 age 28 yrs. 5 mo. 7 days.

Oliver Lovell b. 1795 d. Mar. 5, 1812 age 17 yrs. Buried in Baltimore cemetery. Clerked in Capt. Henry's store in Perkinsville.

Hannah b. 1790 d. Nov. 16, 1883 age 93 m. Thomas Prentiss of Weathersfield Jan. 24, 1811, son of the Thomas Prentiss who was a very prominent citizen in the early history of Weathersfield. About 1828 Thomas and Hannah moved to Waitsfield, Vt. There he was a member of the United Church Society, then the Baptist Church, then the Wesleyan Methodist Society, each in turn. He served as selectman of Waitsfield several terms and was representative in 1832 and again in 1838. Hannah Prentiss was the ancestor of Abbie Prentiss Watson of Alstead, N. H.

Lucius H. b. Apr. 21, 1800 d. Berlin, Ohio, Sept. 19, 1846 m. Lorenda Griswold, moved to Waitsfield, Vt., before going to Ohio. Lorenda m. 2nd Sylvanus Newhall. Lorenda buried in N. Springfield, Lucius in Ohio. Their child Rindilla M. b. Jan. 24, 1829 m. Geo. Kimball.

The genealogy as compiled by Mrs. Abbie Prentiss Watson states that all of Waldo and Priscilla's children were born in Baltimore. The earliest record thus far discovered states that Waldo Cheney bought his land in Baltimore in 1786. If that is correct, the oldest children possibly were not natives of Baltimore.

### Graves Family

Every place in Baltimore that is now occupied for a home had one prominent substantial family living on it for a number of years in the olden days. The Graves farm was fortunate in that it had

two such families. Waldo Cheney sold it to Luther Graves of Weathersfield in 1815, and it was owned by members of that family 87 years.

Luther Graves b. in Leominster, Mass., married Dorcas Martin b. in Lunenburg, daughter of Ephraim Martin, and to them at least five children were born while living in Weathersfield, Vt. Their names: Arethusa d. Aug. 26, 1840 age 33 years buried in Baltimore; Nelson L. a Presbyterian minister, died in No. Carolina; Luther M. (called Marvin) died in Mass. m. a Robinson; Luke C. died in North Carolina; Zenas H. b. in Weathersfield Mar. 17, 1815 died in Baltimore May 21, 1896, buried in No. Springfield, Vt.

Luther Graves bought the farm Feb. 23, 1815, just before Zenas was born, and he was a small baby when his father and mother moved into the house below the barn.

The writer is always pleased when some fact or incident comes to light that distinguishes one family sketch from another. But it was with something like a shock that the following record was discovered:

State of Vermont } To ether Constable of Baltimore in the  
Windsor County } County of Windsor

*Greeting—You are hereby required to summons Luther Graves and Famerly now residing in Baltimore to depart said Town—hereof fail not but . . . . . of this precept and your doings herein due return make according to law, given under our hands at Baltimore this first day of February A. D. 1816*

*Signed by the three selectmen*

*Baltimore Mar. 2, 1816 then by virtue of the precept I summoned the above Luther Graves by puting a trew attested cobby of this precept into the hands of his wife, thereon indorsed.*

*Amasa Gregory—First Constable*

That Luther Graves was apt to become a town charge is unbelievable as he had bought one of the largest farms in town and no mortgage was given on it, neither at that time nor during the 87 years that the Graves family owned it. The precept was served on Luther March 2, and that very week he was honored by being elected highway surveyor at his first town meeting.

Just what prompted this action on the part of the town 125 years ago will always remain a mystery. But the people of Baltimore today have reason to rejoice and be exceedingly glad that Luther did not depart said town when ordered so to do. And it is amusing to know that Amasa Gregory's daughter later married the boy Zenas into whose mother's hands Amasa put the "trew cobby" according to the record. These were the grandparents-to-be of Ella E. Graves, who was to become our chief benefactress.

The records show that Luther took an active interest in town affairs. His usual post of honor was on the board of selectmen, but he served as highway surveyor, lister several times, nearly every year being elected to some office. In the school records his name



often appears as committee man, and he frequently bid off the master's board, one time at 64 cents per week, also bid off the wood at 68 cents per cord. Probably all Luther's and Dorcas' children attended school in the North schoolhouse not so far distant from their home. The oldest son Nelson acquired a college education, a rare accomplishment in those times.

Luther Marvin took the Freeman's Oath in 1832. It is believed the young men in Baltimore always took the oath promptly, and the first office to which they were elected generally was that of hayward. To this office Marvin was elected in 1835 and as auditor in 1836. He and Zenas evidently were nearly the same age.

About this time Marvin married a Robinson girl from Weathersfield and moved in with his father and mother.

In 1836 Zenas took Freeman's Oath and true to form was honored with the office of hayward the next year. By 1841 Zenas was much involved in town business as he was elected highway surveyor, auditor, trustee of U. S. deposit money, sexton, petit juror. In 1844 the board of selectmen was a family affair as Luther and son Zenas were both elected to it. Marvin shone as justice of the peace several years. Some years all three Graves men held offices. Luther M. represented the town in the legislatures of 1850 and 1853 and Zenas in 1858 and 1859.

Luther was not a buyer or seller of land; when finally settled on his large farm he sold a small corner of land to Nahum Knight and sometime after he bought the so-called Jewell lot of 27 acres more or less from Col. Joshua Martin. No record of this deed is found.

Considering his acreage Luther did not keep very many head of cattle. In 1828 he was taxed for a yoke of oxen, 7 cows, 4 head of young cattle, 2 horses and 1 colt.

He seems to have increased his farming operations after Marvin moved in with him. In 1843 he was taxed on 4 horses, 10 head of cattle, 3 swine, 155 sheep valued at 10 cents each. It may be recalled that during the 1840's sheep raising became a leading occupation in Vermont. The side of Hawks Mountain afforded cheap and plentiful pasturage, and the sheep business was carried on at considerable profit by the Baltimore farmers.

In 1844 Marvin Graves bought the Eph. Martin farm which had become heavily mortgaged from Horace Martin. It is not known that Marvin and his wife ever lived there, but it is a matter of record that Zenas was living on it when he finally bought it from Marvin in 1860. It was to this farm that Zenas brought his bride Emily Gregory and here their three children were born, viz: (The mother—Emily Gregory b. Feb. 19, 1818 d. Feb. 16, 1901.) Nelson G. b. 1845 d. June 20, 1860 age 14 yrs. 10 mos. buried in N. Springfield. Ella Elizabeth b. Aug. 23, 1850 d. July 8, 1918. Otis Christopher b. Apr. 21, 1852, d. Nov. 24, 1920.

Zenas was a speculator and luck attended him in one instance. At the death of Joshua Martin 3rd. who lived on the quarry place the home farm was sold first to a Washburn who, in turn, sold off



all the Baltimore land, about 50 acres, to Burrows and Hunt of Vernon for an even \$5. He had owned it just one week. Washburn wanted only the quarry part evidently and did not value his Baltimore holdings very highly. It was soon after this, 1858, that young Zenas Graves bought this land below the road for \$100 which was certainly cheap enough. After buying the land above the road in 1860 Zenas owned both sides of the road, and the farm that Col. Joshua Martin divided between his two sons was again joined together. Zenas owned it eleven years some of which time he rented it to the late Geo. Piper's father.

In 1871 Zenas sold this farm to Orson Freeman of Weathersfield for \$2500, thereby making \$1050 on the deal. The farm was worth what Mr. Freeman paid for it and he it said in passing that Mr. Freeman was a thrifty progressive farmer. His crops and cattle were good to see and he also kept a large flock of sheep. Before becoming very old he began to be afflicted with a severe illness each spring which greatly hindered his farm operations. Finally, one spring he took his bed for his last illness.

According to the good old custom of that day, the neighboring men took turns as "watchers" through the night. The writer's father had cared for him during a particularly hard night, and in the morning Mr. Freeman asked if he would grant him one more favor before he left. "I do wish I knew how my new-seeded patch came through the winter, the one up under the mountain. Would you be willing, Fred, to go up and look it over and tell me what you think of it?" Of course Father acceded to his wish and was able to report truthfully that there was a fine stand of grass, thanks to Mr. Freeman's careful cultivation. Father was amply repaid for this last favor by the look of pride and satisfaction that spread over the older man's countenance. Baltimore owes much today to such as he who loved their acres.

To return to Zenas and Emily. What became of them after renting their first home? It appeared that not all was harmony in the family relations between Marvin and wife and Luther, especially after Dorcas' death in 1857. Finally, the younger couple went to Massachusetts, and Zenas moved his family down to care for his father. Evidently Luther was not planning on dying young as he was 80 yrs. old when in Mar. 1860 he deeded Zenas "all the land I now own", which was about 200 acres free from all encumbrance but with the following proviso, "if I the said Zenas H. Graves shall allow the said Luther Graves to have the exclusive use and occupancy of the two southwest corner rooms in the house on said premises . . . . shall furnish him the said Luther with all suitable fire, provisions, washing, ironing, lodging, nursing and doctors according to his condition and circumstances the provisions to be provided on Luther's table to eat by himself if he prefers and shall at all times when required furnish the said Luther with a steady horse, harness and carriage to ride when he pleases and shall harness the same for the said Luther and shall pay said Luther the sum of fifty dollars at the end of every year . . . . and shall treat him the



said Luther with suitable respect and kindness and attention then this deed to be void. . . . .”

According to the tales handed down, Marvin's wife had been known to answer Luther back when she considered him too overbearing; so this indenture above was to prevent daughter-in-law Emily from becoming too strong-willed and sharp-tongued. It was also told that Luther asserted his rights by demanding that Emily serve him his meals privately, even when she was extremely busy with hired men and children.

But not for long. Feb. 28, 1861, Luther passed to his reward and was buried in Baltimore with Dorcas and his only daughter Arcthusa. Viewed from a cold financial standpoint this proved an immensely profitable venture for Zenas. Possibly Marvin's wife bemoaned the fact that her patience failed her when the goal was just around the corner.

Luther's great accomplishment was to build the new house that is now standing; the exact date of its erection is not known, but probably it was built in 1838 as then Luther's house was appraised \$350, twice as much as in 1828. It was large, plain, and substantially built with four large rooms and four large chambers, located on higher ground so that the view of the surrounding hills and valleys was simply marvellous until the erection of a new horse barn across the road by son Zenas partially obstructed the same.

Every old homestead in Baltimore has or had its nearby well. For some years it was supposed that this was one house built in town without its accompanying well. The present owner tore down a lean-to on the back of the house, lately, that used to serve as a milk room. While taking up the floor he nearly dropped feet foremost into a deep, deep well. Probably before the days of lead pipe and running water this well furnished the water supply for the house.

Zenas bought no more land; neither did he sell any, but he tilled his large farm with its steep hillsides until it became very productive. He never saw the bottom of his grain bins and was very successful with his sheep. He always wore a frock when doing his work, made like a shirt, that extended to his knees, which he pulled over his head. The cloth was dark-blue material flecked with white. He was of a jovial disposition and a kind, accommodating neighbor, but careful in money matters.

Zenas Graves was a most useful townsman, serving his day and generation almost as well as did Jonathan Woodbury. For a fair example the town meeting records for the year 1866 show Zenas to have been elected selectman, lister, auditor, highway surveyor. Evidently the legal voters even then had not heard of such a thing as incompatibility of town office. He served as justice of the peace for years, also was superintendent of school until it was deemed safe and more expedient to let Ella his daughter hold the office; the records show she had always performed the duties thereof.

Otis took the Freeman's Oath in 1874, but, unlike his father, he did not hold a town office for several years. When a comparatively



young man he went to Tomah, Wis., where he spent several years. Some of the Gregory cousins owed Otis or his father quite a sum of money; so Otis seeking adventure as well as to recover the family fortune betook himself to that distant state.

He came back to Vermont when his father's health began to fail and carried on the farm in a truly husband-like manner until after his mother died in 1901. After her death he and Ella had an auction of 1001 articles and sold the old farm to Preston and Bryant in 1902. Otis then went west again to live with his Gregory cousins; they were his nearest relatives and he liked that country. He was killed on the morning of Nov. 24, 1920, when he went into a creamery to get the milk supply for the family where he lived as was his daily custom. A boiler burst near him causing his death. Thus passed from life a plain, industrious man of rare common sense and friendly mien. He was brought to his native state for burial in the family lot at North Springfield. Neither Otis nor Ella ever married, so with their passing came the end of this branch of a fine old family. Out of appreciation for Ella E. Graves, the town's benefactress, a section is reserved for her apart from the family sketch.

### Martin Genealogy

The Martin family has an interesting ancestor in the person of Susannah North Martin who was hanged as a witch July 19, 1692, on Gallows Hill, Salem, Mass. The main reason why the persecutors became suspicious of this woman was that when walking in muddy weather her skirts did not become drabbled. What an awful delusion obsessed those people!

When passing through Amesbury, Mass., if a person locates the Whittier House, corner of Pickard and Friend Streets, he will find on Route 110 at 5.1 a junction with a dirt road. At the left on this road is a shrub-concealed boulder marking the site of the home of Susannah Martin. A tablet on the boulder bears this inscription—"Here stood the house of Susannah Martin an honest hard working Christian woman accused as a witch tried and executed at Salem July 19, 1692, a martyr of superstition."

Susannah was buried in Amesbury, Mass. The poem "The Witch's Daughter" by John Greenleaf Whittier is said to have been inspired by this incident.

The genealogy follows so far as the Martins of Baltimore are concerned:

George Martin, blacksmith died 1686	m. Susannah North died 1692
George Martin Jr. b. 1648 d. 1734	m. 1st Hannah 2nd Elizabeth Durkee
John b. 1686	m. Jane Durkee Apr. 29, 1710
Joshua b. Dec. 18, 1717	



1st. married Sarah Story daughter of Ephraim Story. This last name was most popular among the Martins. Several men in Massachusetts of that name became well-known as lawyers, judges, sculptors. It was the name of outstanding men related to the Martins, hence its popularity. It must be admitted that some confusion is apt to arise because of Joshuas and Ephraims.

Children of Joshua Sr. and Sarah Story m. June 1, 1744; b. 1726, d. 1751, (All born Chebacco Parish, Ipswich, Mass.):

Ephraim Story—baptized 1745; d. 1833 Baltimore—m. Sept. 19, 1769, Mary Burnham—b. 1746; d. 1813.

Joshua, Jr.—b. 1751 m. Phebe Bradstreet.

Mary—b. 1748; d. in Paw Paw, Ill., age 92 yrs.—m. Samuel Hastings.

Children of Ephraim Story and Mary Burnham—Descendants living 1940:

Sally—b. 1770; d. 1852—m. Jonathan Boynton—9 children—Alma Clark, Orvis L.

Polly—b. 1773; d. 1846—m. Amos Piper—5 children—Winfield Piper, the late Geo. Piper.

Jane—b. 1775; —m. Robert Works—9 children—(moved to Jay, N. Y.).

Ephraim S., Jr.—b. 1777; d. 1842—m. Nancy Haywood—Will Fuller, Minnie Stewart.

Dorcas—b. 1779; d. Sept. 20, 1857—m. Luther Graves.

John—b. 1780; —m. Clarissa Cook (moved to Jay, N. Y.)

Susan—b. 1781;—m. Asa Lawrence (moved to Jay, N. Y.).

Thomas—b. 1783;—m. Betsey Bowman (moved to Jay, N. Y.)

Mehitable—b. 1785; d. 1812;—m. Ira Boynton (moved to Jay, N. Y.)  
one child died young

Lucy—b. 1789; d. 1870—m. Paul Hayward—6 children

It has been stated that Ephraim, Joshua and Mary and their father Joshua Sr. all came to Baltimore in the 1790's. The records show that on May 3, 1794, "Joshua Martin Jun. Esq." of Lunenburg, Mass., paid £80, to Thomas Hutchins and Syrell Hutchins for 113 acres of land. In 1796 Ephraim Martin of Baltimore bought 100 acres of land of Peter and Jane Robinson now of Weathersfield. Peter and Jane must have had some kind of habitation here because they had six children on moving to Baltimore and one more, Dean Tyler, was born to them June 4, 1794. Jane signed the deed with Peter which indicates she was deeding away her homestead. This land is now the place where Henry Allen lives.

Probably Ephraim lived here some time. On Dec. 19, 1797, he sold 50 acres of the land to Jonathan Boynton who married Sally Martin, Ephraim's oldest daughter. The Boynton farm was what is now occupied by Henry Allen.

In the 1800 census Ephraim Martin was listed as having one boy under 10, one boy and two girls between 10 and 16, and he and his wife were over 45. In 1803 the names of Ephraim and Ephraim Martin Jr. appear on the check list. In 1797 mention was made of

Ephraim Martin's farm when the town was being divided into school districts. In that year Ephraim was elected grand juror man. All these matters on record tend to prove that Ephraim brother of Joshua Sr. lived here before moving to Springfield. Possibly he and his family and the Boyntons lived together for a time.

In 1801 Ephraim bought two pieces of land of John Briton Curtis "cordwiner." This included the Margaret Robinson homestead back of Arthur Basso's which she was to have and occupy during her natural life. We have proof Margaret was living as late as 1819 but no evidence that she was occupying her place in Baltimore. So probably Ephraim lived there for a time. In 1804 in the record of a deed reference is made to a stake and stones by the side of the road which passes by Ephraim Martin's to said Harrises (now Slayton Kendalls). In 1810 Ephraim sold one piece of land to Jona. Woodbury, the other to Seth Houghton who could not have full possession of it until Wd. Margaret died. She outlived Seth. But Sally and Polly married Baltimore boys and spent their lives in Baltimore while Dorcas who married Luther Graves came here to live in 1815 until her death.

Ephraim died Aug. 8, 1833, age 85 years, and Mary Jan. 1, 1813, age 68. Both are buried in North Springfield cemetery.

Ephraim married a second wife, Jerusha Lyndes, who died 1831. She was much younger than Ephraim and lived where John Guerney now lives near the airport.

Ephraim Martin moved to the place beyond the Butterfield farm on French Meadow road. Paul Hayward who built the Butterfield house was probably his son-in-law.

Ephraim Martin enlisted at Lunenburg, Mass., Feb., 1781, and was sergeant in Capt. Hollister's Company.

The writer has at hand the family record of Ephraim S. Martin Jr. which may be helpful to someone. It was carefully compiled by Minnie Martin Fuller.

Ephraim S. Martin Jr.	m.	Nancy Hayward
b. 6/10/1777	11/1/1807	d. 6/2/1842

#### Children

Dexter b. 5/13/1809	d. 4/13/1880	m. 12/8/1833	Charlotte Lee,
Grandfather of Mrs. Walter Allen			Granddaughter of Richard Lee, well known as an itinerant preacher.
Lloyd D. Martin			
Ernest Parker, <i>et al</i>			

John Hayward b. 2/13/1811

Lucy Ann—

Ira—b. 10/14/1816; d. 8/15/1880; m. Jane S. Boyd.

Philena Ann—b. 2/6/1813; d. 2/13/1889; m. James Spencer Cook 5/19/1844.

Hannah—b. 4/18/1820; d. 4/14/1912; m. Bailey N. Fletcher 5/15/1844 (Flora Adams' mother).

Jonas Galusha—b. 7/19/1821; d. 5/21/1862; m. Betts. Their son George was Supt. of Sewers in Brooklyn. His son Geo. Jr. Court Justice of Kings Co. for 13 years.



David H. Martin—b. 2/29/1824; d. 8/6/1861; m. Nancy Brown.  
 Mary Jane—b. 6/1/1827; d. 4/8/1916; m. Wm. McGurn 5/1/1850.  
 Catherine—b. 12/18/1831; d. 11/22/1910; m. Asa Fuller 12/16/  
 1866, Mother of W. E. Fuller.  
 Lewis—b. 6/13/1832; d. 10/5/1849.

These eleven children were all born on what is still known as the J. C. Bowen farm at Kendricks Corners.

We will now draw the curtain on this branch of the Martin family and retrace our steps to Baltimore to consider the fortunes of those Martins who lived there, some of whom died and many of whom were buried in Baltimore.

As previously noted, Joshua Martin Jr. Esq. bought his farm in 1794. He seems to have been a colonel in the Revolution as his name was often spoken of as Col. Joshua Martin Jr. His father Joshua Sr. was an old man when he came to Baltimore, being 93 when he died in Oct. 1810. He is buried in Baltimore cemetery. Sarah his first wife died the year Joshua Jr. was born, 1751. His second wife was Elizabeth Knowlton whom he married in 1752. She had three daughters, Elizabeth b. 1753, Jane b. 1754, Mary b. 1761.

Children of Joshua Jr. and Phebe Bradstreet were:

Joshua 3rd m. 1st Lucy Chaplin, 2nd Wd. Sally Billings; Samuel (once lived on quarry place) m. Betsy Kimball; Ephraim S. m. Susannah Boynton b. Aug. 29, 1783 d. 1836 (Children—Louisa; Elvira—deaf and dumb, went to Northampton, became tailoress; Julia; Horace m. Lorinda Woodward, Children—Mary and Augusta; Haskell); Phebe m. Lothrop Cheney; Ebenezer m. Hannah; Betsy m. Jonathan Lawrence; Abigail m. Ephraim Leland.

Probably many of the first habitations in Baltimore were log cabins. Strangely enough, the only one ever mentioned in the records is the one occupied by Joshua Martin Jr. which was on the south side of the road 4 rods west of the corner of the 38 acres of land owned by Ahimaaz Sherwin, said land bordering on the Baltimore town line. The tenth of January 1795 Joshua Jr. bought this land which had some kind of a dwelling on it as Ahimaaz's wife Ruth signed the conveyance with him. The late George Piper remembered a barn on this land standing near an apple tree, also two acres across the road. Poor Ahimaaz had not been able to keep two jumps ahead of the sheriff it would appear. In 1795 Sheriff Walt Panney was on his track and served three writs, taking first 3 acres 12 sq. rods, then 1½ acres and 8 rods, then 2 acres 16 rds, something like 7 acres in all, in favor of Caleb Winn. Later Winn deeded these pieces, probably all in one tract, to Joshua Martin Jr. for £20.

Feb. 13, 1816, Jonathan Atherton of Cavendish sold Joshua what is still known as the Jewell Lot nearly 27 acres, "hitherto occupied by Wm. Jewell." Tradition says that the Jewell family spent their first night in this field with nothing for a shelter except the



overturned body of their dump cart in which all their household equipment had been moved. The Jewells were ordered out of town in Jan. 1813. No trace of their home has been found as yet, but the name lives on. The 113 acres that Joshua Jr. first purchased were all north of the road. With these additional purchases of land south of the road he had a large farm.

Joshua must have felt himself to be growing old, for in 1822 he divided his real estate between his sons Ephraim and Joshua 3rd. These oldtime deeds give an insight into the method by which old people gave their property to their children in return for certain consideration which they were very careful to specify.

Phebe, wife of Joshua, had died on Feb. 25, 1807, and Joshua had taken unto himself another wife, Charlotte by name. He deeded his son Joshua Martin of Weathersfield, living on what is now the quarry place, "all the land I now own in Baltimore lying south of the road leading from Weathersfield line to Joseph Atherton's excepting one half on the barn and one half the yard annexed thereto, said piece of land containing seventy acres by the same more or less."

To son Ephraim he deeded "all the land I now own in the town of Baltimore lying north of the road with the house standing on the same excepting one undivided half of the west part of said house . . . . . reserving to myself the use and occupancy of said undivided half of said house during my life time and the life time of my wife and one half of the barns standing on the south side of road and one half the yard annexed thereto, said land estimated at 118 acres be the same more or less." That very day Ephraim sold the two acres above the road to Joshua, his brother.

Father Joshua did not exactly give his property away as a reading of the following proviso will prove. We will write Joshua's obligation in full:

"This deed is given to secure the payment of the following sums in the following manner viz. first—Two Hundred Dollars to be paid Betsey Lawrence wife of Jonathan Lawrence of Weathersfield. . . . . 2nd. Seventy five Dollars to be paid Thusa Fidella daughter of Ebenezer Martin deceased and Hannah Martin whenever she should here after be about to be married (*Hope Thusa did not elope suddenly. A. M. P.*). The following articles and conditions annually to be complied with and paid in to the said Joshua Martin and Charlotte Martin his wife during the said Joshua's natural life. But if the said Charlotte Martin should outlive the said Joshua Martin then one half of the following articles was to be paid to the said Charlotte: one hundred and fifty pounds of good pork, one hundred and twenty five pounds of beef, ten pounds of tallow (*for candles probably.*)

"Fifteen pounds of poultry. Seventeen and one half bushels rye and corn half of each, five bushels oats, five bushels wheat, sixty pounds butter, seventy five pounds cheese, twenty pounds flax, half the green sauce and garden sauce they may need, fifteen pounds veal, fifteen pounds lamb, seven and one half pounds wool, twenty



bushels potatoes, four barrels cider, half the apples they want to make use of, the keeping of one horse and one cow during their natural lives, three pounds tea, half Souching the other half Hyson, one and one half gallons molasses, six pounds brown sugar, four pounds loaf sugar, one dollar for spices, half the wood cut, and split and put in the wood shed . . . . . and the proportion of the expense of all sickness and nursing the said Joshua and Charlotte may have and the expense of funeral charges of both as 1000 is to 1150."

Joshua's mortgage was \$1000, Ephraim's \$1150. Of course if they met all the above conditions, the mortgage note would be null and void. Let us see what son Ephraim agreed to pay and furnish. He was to pay "the following sums in the following manner" viz. first two hundred dollars to be paid Phebe Martin (*She had to wait for hers until her father died. A. M. P.*) 2nd. One Hundred Dollars to be paid Lucina Martin daughter of Ebenezer Martin deceased and Hannah Martin whenever the said Lucina should be about to be married, fifty dollars to be paid to Ephraim and Abigail Leland's heirs whenever they became of age, Seventy five Dollars to be paid Sam. Martin's heirs. Son Ephraim was to furnish the old people with exactly the same amount of provisions as Joshua but in addition he was to supply "two and one half gallons West India rum and two and a half gallons of New England rum, half a quintal of codfish, two and a half bushels salt, but no keeping for the horse and cow."

It would appear that Joshua and Ephraim had to engage in diversified farming to supply all these various commodities, green sauce, flax, tallow and what not. What did they need of 120 pounds of butter and 150 pounds cheese? Perhaps they sold it or maybe the eight barrels of cider attracted company that liked to eat as well as drink. It was certainly a good proposition for the old folks. Joshua lived until Feb. 16, 1836, age 85 or 84 years. Charlotte two years longer, Jan. 27, 1838, age 84 years. Buried in Baltimore.

About this time Ephraim's wife Susannah died and was buried in Baltimore. A gravestone leaning against the stone wall states that she died Jan. 10, 1836 age 53. Another stone at the head of a grave bears the inscription Susannah B. wife of Capt. Ephraim Martin died Nov. 9, 1837 aged 53 years. Probably the first-mentioned stone is in error.

Alas! on further search we find on May 24, 1822, Ephraim deeded back to Joshua, but if Ephraim kept one horse and one cow half the time, then this deed was to be null and void. Ephraim did not get any advantage in that respect after all.

Ephraim and Susannah's children were probably all born in Baltimore. In 1839 and 1840 son Horace tried his young wings as hayward. In the latter year Ephraim sold to Horace all the land and buildings, who mortgaged the same to Dr. Ariel Kendrick. The Martins' finances were not very promising. We cannot wonder at it particularly if Ephraim met all the conditions imposed upon him as stipulated in his father's deed of 1822. Those early settlers



were pardonable for considering the acres they had wrested from the wilderness as being very valuable. They had acquired them by the sweat of their brow and rigid economy. We of this day and age regard as precious anything we have gained by personal and persistent effort. However, when they passed those prized possessions on to their children with all the provisions and stipulations connected therewith, legacies to be paid the other heirs at uncertain dates, etc., who among us of today would care to assume Ephraim's obligations toward his father and stepmother?

Horace mortgaged the farm again to Socrates Hastings, the moneylender of this vicinity, but he soon sold the farm to Marvin Graves who assumed all mortgages due upon it.

Ephraim married for his second wife Mrs. Trussell of Perkinsville, and lived on the place with the brick house on the road to lower Perkinsville now owned by his great-grandson Louis Hopkins.

Horace Martin married Lorinda Woodward sister of Lucinda Woodward who married Oren Averill, a one-time resident of Baltimore. After leaving Baltimore, Horace lived for some time in North Springfield in the large square house on the corner below the Field residence, now owned by Wm. Fuller. Here for several years he kept a tavern. Later he moved to Perkinsville where he owned and operated the soapstone quarry for a time, also kept a store. He was an auctioneer and his wit and cleverness at repartee added much to his popularity and efficiency. To Horace and Lorinda Martin two daughters were born, Augusta and Mary. Augusta married a Perkins from whose family the village derived its name. In early life she was left a widow and lived with and cared for her aunt Mrs. Averill in her declining years. Mary Cheney married the Rev. A. J. Hopkins and spent the last of her married life in Perkinsville where her husband was the beloved pastor of the Baptist Church until his resignation shortly before his death, 1924. Mr. Hopkins enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all who knew him as did his widow who lived in the home of her girlhood days. She died Jan. 14, 1941.

Rev. and Mrs. Hopkins gave to the world three sons of prominence: Ernest later president of Dartmouth College; Louis who was president of Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana; and Robert. Sad to relate Louis passed away in the summer of 1940 while staying at his summer place in Perkinsville. His untimely death was a distinct loss to his family, his ever-widening circle of friends and to his profession. It may be said of him, as of Ernest Butterfield, two of Weathersfield's most worthy sons were called to Higher Ground when their usefulness on this earth was most evident.

Joshua 3rd. who owned the land south of the road never lived in Baltimore long at a time. He may have occupied the Ahimaaz Sherwin habitation a few years, and we know he lived on what is now the Hammond farm around 1810 when he and his wife Lucy cared for her parents, David Chaplin Sr. and wife. His home was on what is now called the quarry place just over the line in Weathersfield. It is expected that he carried on his Baltimore



land as a part of his farm. After Lucy's death he married the second time the Widow Sally Billings, Albert Billings' grandmother. She outlived him, and when Joshua 3rd's estate was settled, her own son Joshua Martin Billings in 1852 bought the two pieces of land, one in Baltimore and one in Weathersfield, all the home farm except 12 acres divided to Sally in Joshua's will, for \$1512. He took his mother to maintain through life and agreed to pay the estate \$900 besides. In 1857 Billings sold the quarry, the quarry farm, the Baltimore land and the mountain pasture for exactly \$5000. Evidently Washburn wanted the quarry mainly, for in a few days he sold the Baltimore land, 50 acres in all for \$5, almost a gift outright. Inside of a year Zenas Graves bought this same tract for \$100, and it was through Zenas that the Joshua Martin Jr. farm was reassembled after being divided 30 years.

The names of the children of Joshua 3rd. and Lucy are not positively known to the writer. Mention is made in the records of his grandchildren Charles A. Hovey, Lucy Rosaline Hovey and Selden A. Nichols. The last-named lived in the house below the quarry house which is no longer standing. Charles Hovey's wife was Ann Martin, according to Mrs. Horace Knight who was Winnie Hovey, the daughter of Charles. A James Martin, buried in Baltimore cemetery, died Oct. 2, 1862, age 64, and Prudence, wife of Wm. Nichols who died May 9, 1840, age 37 years, is also buried in Baltimore. They may have been brother and sister, children of Joshua 3rd.

In the cemetery records we find that Lucy G. wife of Jason Grout died March 18, 1841, age 30 years, also a Susan E. Martin died Mar. 23, 1875, age 65 years. The four last-named people are in the Martin lot which leads one to believe they might all have been Joshua 3rd's children. None of Ephraim's and Susannah's children is buried in Baltimore.

Col. Joshua Martin was an able townsman as the following entries from the early records will prove.

In 1796 "choise Corn'l Joshua Martin Junr Moderator," also voted him first selectman, voted Joshua Martin 3rd. hayward. At an adjourned meeting 1796 he was voted one of the committee to find the center of the town for a schoolhouse. The project failed but Joshua Jr. received seven shillings and six pence for his services. Perhaps he charged too much, for in 1797 he was not elected to any office but was chosen on the committee to see that the northeast corner of Chester be "anexed" to the Town of Baltimore. But in 1798 Joshua Martin Jr. was made town clerk, also first lister. Strangely enough, Joseph Atherton continued to keep the town meeting records, but Joshua Jr. took advantage of his election by recording several deeds of his own thereby saving himself some expense. In 1799 Joshua Martin Jr. was again 1st. selectman, surveyor of highways for the north part, sealer of "wates and mashurs", committee to settle with town treasurer, but in 1800 his popularity waned, his only official duty for that year was sealer of weights and



"measurs," (a new clerk therefore new spelling). The next year he was moderator only, but in 1802 he was moderator, selectman and lister. He must have been a good presiding officer as he was elected moderator nine years in succession. After Joshua divided his farm between his sons Ephraim Story and Joshua 3rd., he seems to have taken little interest in town affairs.

Son Ephraim served his apprenticeship as hayward in 1805 and was also highway surveyor that year and the next. His usual place of honor and usefulness was on the board of selectmen with the office of highway surveyor sandwiched in by way of variety. In school affairs Ephraim and his father showed much interest, but after the town united in one district and built the schoolhouse on its present site the Martins desired to be set off on the school district of Weathersfield as the distance to Perkinsville was much shorter. For a short period their request was granted.

The children of Joshua Martin 3rd and Lucy may have been: James b. 1798 m. Henrietta Lawton d. Oct. 2, 1862; Prudence b. 1803 m. William Nichols d. May 9, 1840; Susan E. b. 1810 unmarried d. Mar. 23, 1875; Lucy G. b. 1811 m. Jason Grout d. Mar. 18, 1841. The above are all buried in Baltimore cemetery.

#### Baltimore, Vt., Martin Record

(1) George Martin was the first immigrant of the name who came to America from England in 1637. He came indented to Samuel Winsley who was a charter member of the town of Salisbury, Mass., and prominent in town affairs. George Martin did not become a commoner in Salisbury, then called Colchester, until he had dissolved his indenture obligations with Winsley and bought Job Cole's first "wright", about 1643, thus meeting the requirements as a property owner. He was a blacksmith by trade but was according to the records a leading element in all town and church public affairs, holding important offices and engaged in various land trades, etc. A full account of him is given in the records of Salisbury. About 1680 he established his permanent home on the west side of Robert Ring's Hill, known as the "Martin Place."

George Martin d. 1686, Salisbury, Mass. m. (1) Hannah b. Salisbury, Mass. d. about 1646. m. (2) Aug. 11, 1648, in Salisbury, Mass., Susan North d. July 19, 1692, Salem, Mass., there executed as a "witch", daughter Richard and Ursula North. Her name has been written Susana, Susanna, Susannah.

One child by Hannah, first wife:

Hannah, b. Feb. 1, 1643-4 m. Eziekiel Worthen. Children by Susannah, 2nd wife: Richard, b. June 29, 1647, m. Mary (Hoyt) Bartlet. George, b. Oct. 21, 1648, m. (1) Hannah (2) Elizabeth Durkee. John, b. Jan. 26, 1650-1 m. Mary Reed. Esther, b. Apr. 7, 1653, m. John Jameson. Jane, b. Nov. 2, 1656, m. Samuel Hadley. Abigail, b. Sept. 10, 1659, m. James Hadlock. William, b. abt. 1662, d. a few days old. William, b. Dec. 11, 1663, m. Mary. Samuel, b. Sept. 29, 1667, probably died young, no town record.



(2) George Martin (George) b. Oct. 21, 1648, Salisbury, Mass., d. Apr. 14, 1734, aged 86, in Chebacco parish, Ipswich, Mass., where he had his residence. Was prominent in town affairs. Name of principal street is Martin St. in Chebacco. His will recorded 1734, inventory gave value £ 881. m. (1) Hannah; it was thought she was a daughter of Judge Henry Green b. as early as 1620 and went to Hampton, Ct., a few years after its settlement. George m. (2) int Feb. 21, 1712, Ipswich, Mass., Elizabeth Durkee.

Children by 1st wife born Chebacco, Ipswich, Mass:

George, b. Sept. 17, 1680, m. Anna Chote, Mercy Durkee and Mary Linkon; Elizabeth, b. Sept. 12, 1682, probably died young; John S., b. Oct. 6, 1686, m. Jane Durkee; Mary, b. Aug. 7, 1692, m. John Howard Feb. 22, 1712 m. int.; Joseph, b. Dec. 26, 1694, m. Mary; Ebenezer, b. Apr. 20, 1697, m. Mary Millard, Jerusha Durkee.

(3) John S. Martin, (George, George) b. Oct. 6, 1686, Ipswich, Mass., d. about 1760, res Ipswich, Mass., (Bay Colonies Hist pp 31, and 301, states John Martin of Ipswich, Mass., was in Queen Anne's War 1702-3). m. int Winchester, Mass. Apr. 22, 1710, Jane Durkee, (Court records Ipswich, Mass.)

Five children b. Ipswich, Mass: Martha, b. June 6, 1711, m. Thomas Browne; John, b. Oct. 17, 1712, m. Elizabeth Thompson; Joshua, b. Dec. 18, 1717, m. Sarah Story; Mary, b. Sept. 24, 1720; George, b. Sept. 23, 1722.

(4) Joshua Martin (John S., George, George) b. Dec. 18, 1717, Ipswich, Mass. d. Oct. 18, 1810, res Ipswich and Lunenburg, Mass. m. (1) Sarah Story, b. June 1726, d. before 1752, dau. Ephraim (son of Samuel) and Elizabeth Story of Ipswich, Mass.

Children of Joshua and Sarah (Story) Martin: Ephraim, bap. Feb. 23, 1745, m. Mary Burnham; Joshua Jr. b. 1751, m. (1) Phebe Bradstreet, (2) Charlotte.

(5) Ephraim Martin (Joshua, John S. George, George) b. Feb. 23, 1745, Ipswich, Mass. d. Aug. 8, 1833, Baltimore, Vt. m. Sept. 19, 1769, Mary Burnham b. 1745, d. Jan. 1, 1813. Ephraim was an officer in the Revolutionary War, came from Lunenburg, Mass., to Baltimore, Vt., about 1795, m. (2) Jerusha Lyons by whom he had no children. She d. Feb. 21, 1831, age 35.

Children of Ephraim and Mary (Burnham) Martin, born in Lunenburg, Mass.: Sally, b. 1770, m. Jonathan Boynton; Polly, b. 1773, m. Amos Piper; Ephraim S., b. 1777, m. Nancy Haywood; Dorcas, b. 1779, m. Luther Graves; John, b. 1780, m. Clarisa Cook; Susan, b. 1781, m. Asa Lawrence, moved to Jay, N. Y.; Thomas, b. 1783, m. Betsey Boynton, moved to Jay, N. Y.; Mehitable, b. 1785, m. Ira Boynton, moved to Jay, N. Y.

(5) Joshua Martin, Jr. (Joshua, John S., George, George) b. 1751, m. Phebe Bradstreet, probably Lunenburg, Mass. He was a colonel in the Revolutionary War as his brother Ephraim was a captain. They both came to Baltimore probably together, in or about 1795, being among the first settlers, with Waldo

Cheney and others. He bought his farm in Baltimore that same year on which was a log cabin.

Children of Joshua Jr. and Phebe (Bradstreet) Martin: Joshua 3rd, m. (1) Lucy Chaplin, (2) Widow Billings; Samuel, m. Betsey Kimball; Ephraim Story, m. Susannah Boynton; Phebe, m. Lothrop Cheney; Ebenezer, m. Hannah; Betsey, m. Jonathan Lawrence.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Eliot Watson of Alstead, N. H., the writer was loaned a copy of the proceedings at the "Tryal of Susannah Martin" which was held at Salem, Mass., June 30, 1692. Following are excerpts from the same:

"Susanna Martin pleading not guilty to the Indictment of Witchcraft brought in against her, there were produced evidences of many persons very sensibly and grievously Bewitched; who all complained of the prisoner at the Bar as the person whom they Believed the cause of their miseries. And now, as well as in the other Trials, there was an extraordinary endeavor by witchcrafts, with Cruel and Frequent Fits to hinder the poor sufferers from giving in their complaints; which the Court was forced with much patience to obtain, by much waiting and watching for it."

There followed testimony from several witnesses claiming to have been seriously injured by the witchcraft practiced upon them by Susanna Martin. One John Allen refused to cart staves for this Martin because his oxen were weak whereupon this Martin was displeased and said. . . . "his oxen should never do him much more service." As he was going home, his ox tired and he had to unyoke him to get him home. Then he turned the oxen out to pasture, but they did not yet flesh. One day all the oxen ran into the mouth of the Merrimack River, then ran right into the sea swimming as far as they could be seen, only one ever returned. Thus Susanna Martin was accused of bewitching them.

Another man testified he exchanged a cow with a son of Susanna Martin whereat she muttered and was unwilling he should have it. "Going to get the cow they hamstringed and hattered her, but she grew so mad that she broke up ropes though she was tied fast to a tree." They could ascribe her actions to no cause but witchcraft practiced on her by said Susanna.

One man accused her of "scrabbling at his window one night then coming through it and taking hold of his feet she drew his Body up into a heap and lay upon him nearly two hours during which time he could neither speak nor stir. Finally he laid hold on her hand bit three of her fingers into the bone whereupon she fled out the door. No Person saw her but on the newly fallen snow the print of her two feet could be seen just without the Threshold but no more sign of any footing further off."

Another testified she came into his house in the likeness of a cat, took fast hold of his throat and nearly killed him. One man lost cattle to the value of thirty pounds, a woman was declared to have fallen into a strange kind of distemper and to have "been horribly



Franctick and incapable of any Reasonable Action.” Poor Susanna was adjudged to be the Devil who had bewitched her.

Several other charges were brought to bear upon her, all ridiculous and shameful tales of blind superstition and malignant cruelty. Through it all she showed extraordinary force of mind and dignity, but she was sentenced to death and hanged with others July 19, 1692.

This record was furnished by John Martin Vincent—(John Martin 8, John M. 7, Sally 6, John 5, Sarah 4, George 3, George 2, George 1.)

### The Woodward

The information about Nehemiah Woodward that follows was sent to Dr. G. D. Frost of Hanover, N. H., in 1928 by George S. Woodward, 10 Oak Ave., Belmont, Mass., and Dr. Frost made me a copy. It was taken from the Pension Records at D. A. R. Hall, Washington, D. C.

Nehemiah Woodward

b. Smithfield, R. I., 1751 Jan. 28

d. (around 1834, says Mr. George Woodward. Buried two miles north of Bridgewater Corners, in the Hollow Cemetery. Has no stone.)

m. 1777 July 16, by Ben Giles Esq. at Saville (later Wendell, now Sunapee) N. H., to Lucy Rand of Rye, N. H.

Eleven children:

1—Rhoda

b. 1778 June 13 at Saville, N. H.

d. 1851 March 21

m. Abner Angell

2—Nehemiah

b. 1782 Oct. 28 Wendell, N. H.

3—Benjamin

b. 1785 Sept. 15 Wendell, N. H.

d. (1847 Feb. 9)

m. Polly Angell, (Noel, Eber, Abiah, Hope, John, Tom)

4—Emma

b. 1788 June 17 Wendell, N. H.

5—Robert

b. 1790 August 19 Wendell, N. H.

6—Samuel

7—John

b. 1793 May 15 Wendell, N. H.

8—John

b. 1794 Aug. 17 Wendell, N. H.

(m. Fanny—and ran a hotel in Woodstock, Vt.)

9—Lucy

b. 1797 March 24 Wendell, N. H.

10—Becky

b. 1799 July 19 Wendell, N. H.

11—Nabby

b. 1803 June 24 Bridgewater, Vt.

He enlisted at Prospect Hill, Boston, 1775 Dec., for one year six months as a private. Discharged at Chatham, N. Y., 1777 Feb. He was in the battles of Long Island, White Plains, Trenton and Princeton.

(The dates, etc., enclosed ( ) were not in the D. A. R. record, but furnished by Mrs. A. J. Hopkins or Dr. Frost. Dr. Frost was getting information for Mr. George Woodward.)

Nehemiah was an itinerant preacher; he used to preach in houses and barns to the Baptists. They had no church. He is said to have traveled as far north as Canada, and he certainly preached in Woodstock, Vt.

In a History of Vermont by Zadock Thompson published in 1842, in the section devoted to a Gazetteer of the Vermont towns, it says under Bridgewater that "the Baptist Church was organized June 6, 1806, and then consisted of 11 members. It was for more than 30 years under the pastoral care of Elder Nehemiah Woodward."

See also History of Woodstock, Vt., by Dana, page 382 for a record of his preaching in that town.

The family of Benjamin Woodward, third child of Nehemiah and Lucy Rand Woodward.

b. 1786 Sept. 15 (the D. A. R. record says 1785, but Mrs. A. J. Hopkins gave us 1786)

d. 1847 Feb. 9

m. Polly Angell, dau. of Noel Angell, (Eber, Abiah, Hope, John, Tom)

b. May 9, 1788, d. May 27, 1870

Six children:

1—Lucinda b. 1813 May 9

d. 1902 Jan. 3 buried in N. Springfield

m. Oren Averill, "Deacon Averill", who died 1885, July 12, aged 75 years 8 months

This is the "Aunt Averill" that Mrs. Charlie Perkins, "Aunt Gustie", went to live with in N. Springfield when her father, Horace Martin, married again.

2—Lodema b. 1815 March 20

d. 1874 in Cresco, Iowa

m. Isaac Gregory

3—Lorinda b. 1818 June 25

d. 1885 May 10 buried in Plain Cemetery, Perkinsville

m. 1839 Dec. 19, Horace Martin 1817-1904

(Ephraim S., Joshua, Joshua, John, George, George)

Two children:

1—Augusta Susan b. 1843 May 10

buried in Plain Cemetery, Perkinsville

m. 1870 June 7 Charles Perkins of Perkinsville, but at the time of marriage a lawyer in Troy, N. Y. He died when they had been married about ten years. Buried in Martin lot. No children.



2—Mary Cheney b. 1854 May

d. 1941 Jan. 19, buried in Perkinsville

m. Rev. A. J. Hopkins, 1847-1924

Five children, three boys. The two girls died when about a year old.

4—Alfred b. 1822 June 13

5—Alfred b. 1824 Jan. 26

m. Ruth A. Thomas, 3rd daughter of Bezar A. and Polly Thomas of Woodstock, Vt. She died 1874 Oct. 26 aged 50 years 4 mos. in Cresco, Iowa.

6—Austin b. 1826 April 11

Last heard of in Cresco, Iowa.

Descendants of Benjamin and Emma, third and fourth children of Nehemiah and Lucy Rand Woodward.

Benjamin m. Polly Angell

Children: Lucinda (Mrs. Averill); Lodema (Mrs. Gregory); Austin; Alfred; Lorinda (Mrs. Martin). Mary Martin, daughter of Lorinda, m. Rev. A. J. Hopkins; their child—Louis B. Hopkins, father of Florence and Margaret.

Emma Woodward m. Freeman

Child—O. D. Freeman. His daughters: Emma (Mrs. G. Piper) and Alice (Mrs. Moore); Alice's daughter, Clara Moore Gregory; Clara's children: Forrest and Pearl Gregory Jones.

"These are the only descendants of Nehemiah that I know of, but there may have been relatives in Iowa. I never heard Mrs. A. J. Hopkins say, that I recall."

### Noah Piper Family

In 1778, according to the Cavendish records, Noah Piper of Weathersfield, Vt., obtained land "over the mountain" in what is now Baltimore. His first habitation might have been a log cabin, but it is believed that the house now standing on the Desmond place was the one built and occupied by Noah, and it bears the distinction of being the oldest house in the town. For many years two families of Pipers lived in it, each family by itself which accounts for the two pantries, two sink privileges—a "duplex" in modern parlance.

Noah and his wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Newton, were both born in 1750 reckoning from the inscription on their grave-stones in Baltimore cemetery, so it is probable that Noah had quite a large family when they came to town. From Child's Gazetteer of Windsor Co. we learn the names of those numerous children were as follows—Sarah, died young—Amos—Lucretia—Ruth, married Walter Mansfield—Eunice, married Nehemiah Green—Rufus died in Cavendish—Prudy, married Mr. Green—Patty married Mr. Cheney—David, died in New York State—John—Levi—Wealthy, married James Phillebrown and might have been a connection of that family of Phillebrowns who owned and lived on a farm on the top of Hawks Mountain, back of Round Top.



Wealthy Phillebrown and Patty Green were named in a conveyance from John and Patty Piper to Rodney Piper in 1851 as being the heirs to certain legacies. No other mention is found in the records of the girls or their husbands, so probably when they married they left Baltimore. Of the boys Amos, John and Levi were residents of Baltimore for many years and prominent in the activities of the town.

The census of 1800 shows that the Noah Piper family was the only family by that name in Baltimore at that date. The census states there were a boy and girl under ten, two boys and two girls from ten to sixteen, one boy and one girl between sixteen and twenty-six, besides Noah and his wife who were over forty-five. It was a goodly sized family left to be tucked away in what is now the oldest house in Baltimore.

Noah must have been a vendue fan. In 1788 we find on the Cavendish records Noah bought 150 acres on Benj. Whitcomb's right at a vendue, thereby gaining his first title to land in Baltimore. In 1794 he paid Ahimaaz Sherwin twelve shillings for 32 acres of land that Ahimaaz had bid off at a vendue in 1790. The record of this deed states that Noah was then living in Weathersfield. It would seem that Noah became delinquent in paying the tax assessed by the legislature to build a state prison. It might be interesting to read a slightly abridged copy of a vendue deed in favor of Noah as it appears on the Land Records. In this sale he evidently bid back his own property. "Know all men by these presents that I, Isaac Parker of Cavendish in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, Collector of the land tax granted by the Legislature of the State of Vermont in October 1791 on the town of Cavendish . . . . . by virtue of a certain statute law of this State entitled 'an act for the Purpose of raising Thirty Thousand Dollars to build a State's Prison', having in all things pursued the directions of said Statute for the purpose of raising so much money as had remained unpaid of said tax in said Town of Cavendish untill the sale hereunafter mentioned and attending charges, for the consideration of Twelve Shillings one penny half penny Lawful Money received to my full satisfaction of Noah Piper of Cavendish alis Baltimore—Yeoman I do in the capacity aforesaid give grant bargain sell convey and confirm unto the said Noah Piper his heirs and assigns forever one hundred and seventy two acres of land lying and being in Cavendish alis Baltimore aforesaid and set to the said Piper by the selectmen of said Cavendish in their tax bill of the Lands in said Cavendish assessed for the payment on raising the land tax on one half penny on each acre of land . . . . . the said Noah Piper being a leagel purchaser of the said lands at a leagel and publick vandue held in Cavendish on the 2 day of January Anno Domini 1794 for the sale of the land of the delinquents thirty acres of sd land being on the Right of Aaron Taylor and one hundred and fourty two acres on the right of Benjamin Whitcomb on the first division." This deed was not made out and signed until April 7, 1795. Over fourteen months had elapsed since Noah bid it off in Feb. 1794, probably an



allowance of time was given in which the land could be redeemed. The deed was not recorded for twelve years or in 1807 in which year Noah bought 13 acres of undivided and unlocated land on Caleb Howe's right by paying Seth Houghton \$15.00. He soon had this tract surveyed by Hilkiah Grant, so possibly its location was not quite so mysterious as it might seem.

In all probability the largest tracts referred to were the old Piper homestead. In 1819 Noah sold John 10 acres for 100 dollars beginning at his S. W. corner. This seems to have concluded Noah's land transactions.

Noah's activities as a townsman may be briefly enumerated as follows:

- 1794—Noah Piper, one of committee to divide town into districts, also Noah Piper's house door should be sign post for the present.
- 1795—Met at Noah Piper's dwelling house for town meeting. Noah Piper elected surveyor of highways.
- 1797—Joseph Atherton's front door was voted sign post, (probably Joseph's house was more central).
- 1801—Noah elected 2nd. selectman. (In that year the selectmen began to order families out of town but not once did Noah sign the precepts, neither did he sign the warning for town meeting next year.)
- 1810—Noah was elected highway surveyor.

Noah's interest in town affairs was not very manifest but in 1806 Rufus Piper was elected to the office of hayward. Next year Rufus was surveyor of highways for North District as well as hayward. No more does the name of Rufus appear but in 1813 John Piper was elected hayward, which signified that John had reached the age of 21 and had taken Freeman's Oath.

John, Amos and Levi Piper all became permanent and prominent citizens of Baltimore, so a portion of this sketch will be given to each family. The grand lists for the town of Baltimore are not available until the year 1828. On the frayed yellow pages of the book the names of four Pipers appear, Noah, John, Levi and Amos. Apparently the three first-named owned two houses in joint ownership as each one is taxed for two-thirds of a house. It is a little baffling that Levi's  $\frac{2}{3}$  should be appraised for \$129 or as much as John's and Noah's combined. In the column for the appraisal of Houses and Lots their names appear in this manner: Noah Piper  $\frac{2}{3}$  (house) \$64.99; Levi Piper  $\frac{2}{3}$  (ditto) 129.00; John Piper  $\frac{2}{3}$  (ditto) 64.99. In 1829 Levi's ownership in houses and lots is expressed like this: Levi Piper  $\frac{2}{3}$   $\frac{1}{2}$  house \$129.00.

Possibly Levi had built his new brick house on what was later known as the Carrigan place. The land was evenly divided among the three. Noah was taxed for two cows, a two-year-old and five sheep. The next year, 1829, Noah had the same number of cattle plus one sheep. But in 1830 we read the name Wd. Sarah Piper in place of Noah's and she still had the same number of cows and



the two-year-old. John now owned one whole house and Levi  $1\frac{1}{2}$  houses. Whoever owned the other half of Levi's house is a matter for conjecture. Later, a further study of the records reveals that Levi had just purchased the Manasseh Boynton farm in company with Joseph Atherton.

Sarah continued to have the two cows and one two-year-old, but her number of sheep varied from year to year. Once at least she was the only Piper to have any sheep listed. Probably she was able with her own hands to convert the wool that grew on the backs thereof into mittens, stockings and homespun cloth for the needs of her numerous progeny.

Noah Piper died Sept. 17, 1829, aged 79 years. Sarah Piper died April 8, 1843, aged 93 years. Both are buried in Baltimore cemetery with tall marble slabs marking their resting-places.

The provisions of Noah's will make interesting reading in this day and age. We find he made the important document in 1823. To his beloved wife Sarah he bequeathed 2 cows, 6 sheep, 1 horse, also one-half of all the real estate and all the furniture, the same to be divided after her death among the daughters.

Other bequests were as follows:

\$1 to Amos Piper; \$76 to Rufus to be paid in good neat cattle; \$106 to son David in good neat cattle 2 years after the decease of me or his mother; \$66 to Ruth Piper in good neat cattle in 4 years; \$66 to Lucretia Cheney in good neat cattle in 5 years after my decease; \$66 to Eunice Green in good neat cattle in 6 years after my decease and the decease of her mother if she should outlive me; \$66 to Prudence Cheney in good neat cattle in 7 years; \$66 to Patty Green in good neat cattle in 8 years; \$23 to Wealthy Piper on the day she shall arrive to the age of eighteen years; \$10 on the day of her marriage also \$66 to Wealthy of good neat cattle in 9 years; to sons John and Levi all the residue of my estate. The two last-named sons were also named for sole executors.

In 1824 Father Noah added a codicil. Evidently, he had mellowed towards son Amos as he willed him two notes against James Phillebrown amounting to \$17.50. He gave John and Levi all his farming utensils, also four notes against sons David, Rufus, Prudy Cheney and James Phillebrown amounting to \$168.94. To Sarah his wife he willed two notes against David Piper and one against James Phillebrown \$52.08. Wealthy finally married James Phillebrown. In an inventory made of Noah's estate the farm is listed as 160 acres valued at \$1800, one cow was appraised \$13, another cow \$11, 90 bus. potatoes \$15, certainly not a high valuation. Among articles not found in appraisals of household equipment nowadays were a brass kettle \$8, 2 chests \$2.50, 2 spinning wheels \$2, one loom \$3, 2 pewter platters \$1, 8 pewter plates and 1 pewter pot, 4 diaper tablecloths. The sum total valuation of personal property was \$463.63.



## John Piper Family

John Piper—b. in Weathersfield	married	Polly Butterfield
		of Andover, Vt.
son of Noah & Sarah Piper		dau. of Eleazer & Mary Butterfield
d. Baltimore, Vt.		b. Ashby, Mass.
May 13, 1860		d. Apr. 29, 1867
Age 68 yrs. 11 mo. 23 d.		Age 78 yrs. 7 mos.

## Children, all born in Baltimore, Vermont

Infant son—died April 15, 1814. Age 9 days. Mary E.—(always called Eleanor) b. 1815. d. Aug. 8, 1870. Age 55 yrs. Unmarried. John Willard—b. Feb. 14, 1817 d. in Weston, Vt. July 4, 1901 Age 84. Carter Rodney—b. 1823 d. 1870. Rodman—died Dec. 4, 1823 aged 10 mos. Probably the last two were twins.

John and his wife Polly were the ones that Fate decreed should stay on the old farm and keep the home fires burning for Noah and Sarah.

This augured well for the town as John and later his son Rodney became very efficient townsmen, always busy in the work of the town. John tried his young wings as hayward in 1813, served as surveyor and lister, and in 1820 he was elected constable and collector which office he held for 12 consecutive years. He was then unseated in favor of Earle Woodbury but continued to be elected to office every year, which showed that his interest in town affairs did not wane. In 1840 he was chosen first selectman and town clerk which two highly important offices he held for six years out of eight, failing to be elected selectman in 1843-'44. In 1851 he was again elected to the two highest offices and continued to be elected to both for eight years or until 1859. His son Rodney was elected assistant town clerk in 1856; probably his father's health had begun to be precarious at that time, as he died of what was termed a cancerous humor in 1860.

John Piper held the office of town clerk until his death or for 20 years in succession, the longest of any man to that time. The records as he made them were so well and faithfully kept that the voters were justified in his continuance of office. He also served as justice of the peace many years.

He had a live interest in school matters as was evinced by his being elected committee man several times. He did not bid off the teachers' board but twice, but the Piper home with two families in it did not have "rooms to let." He was moderator all through those exciting school meetings of 1835 to '38 which must prove to us his active interest, also fairness of mind. He was chosen as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention from Baltimore in 1843.

That the Pipers were a scholarly-minded family is attested by the fact that Rodney and Eleanor were teachers. Some remarkably fine penmen were to be found among the Pipers and still are. Mr.



Winfield Piper over 70 and Myron Piper, 85, have contributed to this effort in most excellent handwriting.

John Piper's land transactions were not numerous. In 1848 he bought from Obed Thurston 85 acres now the Geo. Cook place, for \$1000. He placed a mortgage on it for \$600 in favor of Thurston who had moved to Ludlow. His son John Willard lived here for a few years. John sold two pieces from this land to his son Carter who had bought the Gregory place (now Sundgren's), one piece containing 5 acres south of the highway and the 30 acres of pasture on the hill west of the buildings. Carter mortgaged this back to his father for the full purchase price. This explains the lane leading up to the top of the hill back of Geo. Cook's house. Carter Piper and later Elijah Bemis used to drive their cows to that pasture daily.

It appears that John was seized with a high and holy ambition to help each of his sons to a farm in Baltimore.

In 1851 John and Polly deeded the homestead containing 81 acres formerly owned by Noah Piper deceased to Rodney L. Piper his heirs and assigns, also all stock then on said farm belonging to the said John and Polly his wife except sixty-six dollars worth one half of it to be turned out on a legacy due to Patty Green, April 8, 1851, and the other half on a legacy due to Wealthy Phillebrown April 8, 1852, "if I the said John Piper should not live to settle said legacies." If Rodney L. should sell any part of the above-granted and premises during the natural life of the said John and Polly or the survivor of them then this deed was to be null and void. In consideration for all this property Rodney was to "see his parents through life." He agreed to well and faithfully carry on said farm in a good husband-like manner and to deliver to John and Polly during the natural life of said John at the house where he now lives the following articles: "One half of all the grain, one half of the beans and one half of the potatoes raised on said farm each such said grain and beans to be harvested and put into the grainery and said potatoes to be put into the cellar, one half of the pork after fatted and killed, one half of the pigs raised on said farm, one half of the butter and cheese of two good cows, the said John is to furnish one half of the salt and rennet for making said butter and cheese, the butter to be divided as it is made, well worked and salted fir to lay down. One half of the milk of another cow making three good cows to be kept on the place each year, one half of the calves killed on the place one half of all the poultry and one half the eggs, one hundred pounds of good beef which shall be a hind quarter and one lamb, or two good fat sheep and one lamb each year and draw a sufficient quantity of wood yearly for the said John and Polly during their natural lives. . . . one half of the currants, one half on the fall and winter apples picked and put into the house, one half on the cider each year and one half of the garden sauce, and have hay and pasturing for friend's horses and stable room for the same and furnish the said John and Polly with a suitable horse and carriage when they shall want unless said horse is wanted in the team on



said farm, the said John is to pay one half the expense of keeping the horse shod that he has to use and to furnish one half of the store shoats and one half of the raw materials to keep the store shoats on the said John is to have one half of the pumpkins and is to find one half on the grain for the poultry and to furnish one half of the seed to sow and plant, all the foregoing articles are to be divided each year equal in quantity and quality. The said John and Polly are to have the use of the east part of the house they now live in. . . . . except the said Rodney L. is to have a privilege in the north room, the said John and Polly are to have the use of one undivided half of the backroom and woodshed and to pay one half the expense in keeping said house and shed in repair. . . . . The said Rodney L. is to furnish the said John and Polly with twelve pounds of good wool each year and pay the said John thirty dollars in cash in the month of January annually during his natural life."

Then follows the agreement as to what Rodney L. should furnish Polly the wife if she outlived the said John, which was to be one-fourth part of all the articles to be divided; Polly was to furnish one-fourth part of the salt, rennet, seeds to sow and plant.

It appears that in their rush they nearly forgot the "sweetening," etc., because at the very end of the things specified it states "the said John and Polly are to have one half of the maple shugar made on said farm during their natural life."

Let us pause and reflect, gentle patient reader, upon this arrangement as it affected the declining years of John and Polly. Were they not happy and secure in their old age against the need of food, shelter, fuel and warm clothing and means of transportation? What they needed to buy for comfortable maintenance would be covered by thirty dollars; their tastes were not extravagant, and it did not cost so much to keep up with the Joneses in those days.

We may wonder if son Rodney fell heir to any great legacy after "full filling" each, every and all of the foregoing covenants and agreements because there are more to mention.

It appears there was an unmarried daughter Mary E. for whom John and Polly wished to make provision. Rodney L. was to pay her \$200 within two years after the decease of said John with interest after John's decease; if Mary should outlive her parents and should live a single life, she was to have the use of the east bedroom and buttery and south room that John was to have during his natural life, the east chamber and clothes press. This was practically all the front end of the house. She was to have a privilege in the cellar, woodshed, backroom, also the use of the flower garden at the east end of the house. Wood, apples, currants were to be furnished Mary E. by Rodney L. if she should live a single life. But "should she see fit to marry she is to have none of the above granted privileges except that she is to have the two hundred dollars." This only daughter of John and Polly always wrote her name Mary E. but was known to everyone by her middle name Eleanor. For some time the writer was misled into thinking there were two sisters, Mary and Eleanor.

John lived nine years after deeding his property to Rodney, and Polly survived him several years. Rodney probably had always lived on the old home place. It is safe to infer that all the sons of John Piper stayed at home until they were twenty-one, as they each one took the Freeman's Oath here. The same is true of Amos' four sons and of Levi's only son Edwin. Be it remembered that children in those days were more helpful to their parents before reaching their majority. It would also seem that they felt more responsibility for their parents' well-being when old age overtook them. The parents gave to their children the best that they had, believing that the best from their children would come back to them. Old Age Assistance for worthy old people came from natural sources instead of from the state and nation.

Rodney Piper Family

Rodney Piper	married	1st Gratia H. (?)
b. 1823		d. 1853, Jan. 3
d. 1870, Jan. 11		aged 20 years. 2 mos.
age 46 yrs. 11 mo. 6 days		2nd Selina White, Ludlow, Vt.
heart disease		

Children by 2nd wife:

Gratia Louisa	b. Oct. 27, 1855
	d. Sept. 24, 1863 of diphtheria
	age 7 yrs. 10 mos. 27 days
Ida Eleanor Piper	b. June 5, 1859
	d. 1894, Nov. 20 of consumption
	age 35 yrs. 5 mos. 15 days
Clarence Rodney	b. Oct. 11, 1863 (17 days after little Gratia died)
	d. 1888, June 4 of consumption
	age 24 yrs. 7 mos. 23 days

The town of Baltimore has much evidence that Rodney L. Piper was one of its most outstanding citizens in his day and age. After his father's death he kept the records until after his mother died in 1867.

As previously noted his handwriting was excellent; no previous town clerk ever approached and no subsequent clerk ever has or will surpass the plainness and uniformity of the writing with which he recorded deeds and "doings." His father before him was a very useful townsman; so Rodney was of the manner born. He was elected town clerk, treasurer and auditor in 1860. He must have audited his own treasurer's account to the entire satisfaction of those most concerned as he was re-elected to the very same offices the next year. In 1862 he was duly elected town clerk, treasurer, auditor, lister, grand juror and highway surveyor, virtually the town's manager, and it is pleasant to think that the town's oldest house was the administration building or municipal office in modern terms of speaking.

He was the first superintendent of schools 1846 and duly examined would-be teachers in spelling, reading, writing, geography, arithme-



tic and English grammar. Miss Eliza Davis was the first to stand before his august presence and pass his questioning. Chas. Durant not only passed but furnished satisfactory evidence that he sustained a good moral character. Others who later were examined and found qualified were Betsey S. Harris, Helen Preston, Isadore Albee, Jennie Demary, Emma Preston, Lucy Martin, and Lewis Sanborn.

Rodney continued to be clerk, treas., selectman and supt. of schools as long as he stayed in town. He also served several years as justice of the peace, and in 1862 and '63 he represented Baltimore in the legislature. He signed the warning for town meeting in March 1868 but was not elected to any office at that meeting; so we may be sure he was about to move to Ludlow. His parents were both gone now, and he bought a farm on South Hill where he lived until he died in 1870.

The records show that he and his wife Selina had sold the old homestead to Joseph W. Leland 2nd and Geo. H. Piper, Dec. 31, 1867. Possession was to be given March 1st, 1868. This was the last deed Rodney ever recorded in Baltimore.

In Jan. 1866 he had sold 50 acres of mountain land back of the Sherwin place to Thomas Preston. His sister Mary E. had deeded Rodney all her right title, interest, property, estate, and demand that she had in and to her late father's property on Dec. 25, 1867, for \$400. In payment she took a mortgage on 40 acres of pasture and woodland on the north side of the road next to Weathersfield line. This piece is still called the Rodney lot.

Ida E. and Clarence were both pupils in Baltimore schools, Ida in 1864, Clarence in 1868. They both received college educations in Middlebury. Ida was the preceptress in Black River Academy, Ludlow, a very proficient teacher of mathematics. Several of her pupils in the academy are known to the writer. One of them relates that a boy in Miss Piper's bookkeeping class was asked by her to read his solution of a particular problem. He proceeded to do so with much hesitation and stumbling under pretense that his handwriting was so nearly illegible that he was under much difficulty to decipher it. When Miss Piper collected the papers to correct she ignored this boy's efforts, explaining that she would not attempt to read any writing which the writer thereof could not make out—he must rewrite his solution before she would consider it.

Clarence Piper was a college mate and close friend of Frank Walker of Ludlow who later became Probate Judge. When entering college young Piper was somewhat shy and countrified, so did not make his way socially very easily. He had a "friend in court" in Frank Walker who told the college boys of the worthwhileness of young Piper and suggested, or rather recommended, that they include him in their social activities and good times. They followed the suggestion and in a few weeks Piper was one of the most outstanding and popular students on the campus. He graduated with honors, proceeded to study law for about two years. He then went to Concordia, Kansas, where he was employed in a bank for about



two years. But the poor fellow had to return to Ludlow where he was to die of tuberculosis in 1888, only 25 years old. It is lamentable that two such fine promising young people as Clarence and Ida Piper had to have their earthly careers cut so short. Their mother buried her husband and all her children. The Rodney Piper line ended here, sad to relate.

### Eleanor Piper

Mary Eleanor Piper never married. In her younger days she taught school in Baltimore. The records bear evidence that in 1845 the town paid "Ellonar" Piper twelve dollars for teaching three months of school. She did not board at home, the town paying her board as follows, (spelling copied from the original): "Oren Avrill four boading Mistress four weeks \$3.30; Obed Thurston four boading Mistress two weeks 1.75; Willard Davis four boading mistress six weeks 5.76." It will be seen that the town paid nearly as much for board as for the teacher.

In later years Eleanor and her mother wove very fine bed blankets to sell, produced in part from the wool of their own sheep. Mrs. Alice D. Lawton of Chester is still using one of those blankets bought at Eleanor's auction probably in 1870. Surely a durable piece of handwork to leave behind. The initials M. E. P., beautifully done in cross-stitch, are in one corner.

Eleanor died Aug. 8, 1870, outliving her mother three years. The epitaph on her gravestone in Baltimore cemetery is quaint and especially appropriate for her:

"Thou art missed among thy flowers at home  
And in the house of prayer  
But Jesus kindly bade thee come  
His own blest home to share."

Mary's flower garden is now a much neglected spot, a regular tanglewood of weeds and shrubs. But locust, syringas, blue honeysuckles, blue myrtle and roses still gladden the eye and yield their perfume in that little plot in which Eleanor Piper spent hours working and planning that things beautiful might grow. The writer's soul delights itself each year with yellow roses and syringas that came from Mary's garden.

John W. Piper settled Mary Eleanor's estate and discharged the mortgage on the Rodney lot so-called Oct. 15, 1870. She outlived her brother Rodney by only a few months and resided at that time in North Springfield in the Sally Smith house, first house below Edgar Chapman's. Her estate was appraised for \$2043.61, her heirs being John Willard, Carter R. and Rodney's two children, Clarence and Ida.



## Amos Piper Family

Amos Piper b. 1776 son of Noah & Sarah Piper d. 1848 Age 72 yrs. 2 mos.	married	Polly Martin b. 1773 d. 1847 Age 74 yrs. 1 mo.
---	---------	--

Moved to St. Johnsbury, at least their first three children were born there.

Their children: Leonard—b. Aug. 7, 1806 d. 1892; Prudence d. Jan. 16, 1834 age 27 yrs.; Stillman—listed for first poll tax 1830 was in Baltimore until 1843, then went west to eastern N. Y.; Perry Bingham—listed for first poll tax 1833; Albert Gardner—listed for first poll tax 1840 m. Susan Hardy Nov. 2, 1842, by his uncle John Piper Justice of the peace, dau. Mary J., 2nd wife Wd. Eliza Heald (Amos Heald's mother); Charlotte.

Amos Piper and wife lived in a small house near the southwest corner of the cemetery. There is no deed of this property on record, but tradition says that Noah built it for his son Amos. Amos was generally elected sexton. The last family to reside there was that of Gardner Piper. Eventually the house fell down and the land was considered a part of the Graves place. A controversy once arose as to whether Amos or the Graves owned it. It is expected that Amos and his wife Polly are buried in Baltimore cemetery. There are several graves with no headstones in the vicinity of the Piper lots which may afford the last resting-place of Amos and his wife.

Leonard Piper, Amos' oldest son, evidently left town soon after becoming 21 as he settled in Proctorsville. We are well pleased to insert herewith the genealogy of the Leonard Piper family.

Leonard B. Piper b. Aug. 7, 1806 d. 1892 in N. Springfield	married May 12, 1836	Elvira Warren dau. of Benj. & Rena Warren b. Sept. 24, 1815 d. Jan. 23, 1850
--	-------------------------	---

## Their Children:

Ann S. b. Feb. 20, 1837 m. Chas. H. Parker Nov. 11, 1855  
Collins L. b. Dec. 1838 m. 1st Fannie Simonds Mar. 16, 1864;  
2nd Mary Simonds Nov. 15, 1871  
Nelson A. b. Apr. 22, 1840 m. Almira Blood Oct. 10, 1865  
Children: Robert d. in infancy; Lillian b. Aug. 22, 1872;  
Ralph b. June 23, 1876  
Mary E. b. Aug. 31, 1843 d. Feb. 29, 1848  
Elvira M. b. Apr. 13, 1849 d. Jan. 23, 1850  
Marvin S. b. Aug. 23, 1850 d. in N. Springfield, Vt. unmarried  
Oscar S. b. May 20, 1856 d. Aug. 29, 1863

## Perry Bingham Piper Family

Perry Bingham m. 1st Sarah Hayward; 2nd Lydia (Mark) Fairbanks  
d. 1892

Children by first marriage:

Charlotte—b. in Weathersfield Dec. 16, 1836; d. in Springfield,  
June 23, 1901; m. Squire Baker; children—Inez d. June 22,  
1890; Ida d. July 27, 1891.

Luella J.—b. 1847; d. 1911; m. Albert Robbins; child—one dau.  
Emma M.—m. Sardine Parker; children—one daughter, Edith  
M. Cluff, d. 1935.

George Hayward Piper—b. Jan. 13, 1841; d. Apr. 6, 1936; m. 1st  
Pauline Bemis, dau. Elijah Bemis, 2nd Emma Freeman; children  
—Bert by 1st wife

Adelaid—d. in Cavendish; m. Henry Sanders; no children.

Children by second marriage (born in Baltimore):

James Piper—d. July 26, 1864—diphtheria, age 10 yrs. 3 mos.  
27 days

Charles Piper—m. 2nd Carrie Drury; child—Lilla Cook Tenny-  
son (adopted by Mr. and Mrs. John Cook)

Cullen Piper—m. Anna Pike; no children

Samuel M.—m. Stella Whittaker; b. July 5, 1867; children—  
one daughter, two sons

Winfield G.—m. Matilda Gorman; children—two sons

Bingham's second wife was a widow with at least three children  
of her own. Sometimes as many as six children attended school  
from that family.

Bingham Piper or "Bing," as he was usually called, never owned  
any real estate in Baltimore, but he rented the Freeman place  
several years when Zenas Graves owned it. He and his family also  
lived on what is now the Hammond and the Geo. Cook places.  
His four girls and six boys all grew to adulthood except James and  
became useful and respected citizens of neighboring towns. George  
Piper lived to the ripe old age of 95. Temperate in habits, honest,  
industrious, kind and thoughtful to his family and neighbors, an  
excellent farmer, the writer is pleased to mention him as a splendid  
example of a typical Vermonter.

Winfield Graves Piper is the only one living today of the above-  
named children of Bingham Piper. He is a registered nurse in  
Mass. City Hospital, having served in that institution since his  
graduation therefrom over forty years ago. He has also perfected  
remedies used by foot specialists on which he has secured patents  
and which receive ready sales.

## Levi Piper Family

In perusing Noah Piper's will it would appear that John and Levi  
were favored sons. Levi who was the youngest of Noah's twelve  
children was seemingly the most prosperous one. John and Levi  
divided their father's land between them, Levi taking what has  
long been known as the Carrigan place. On Jan. 11, 1816, he



married Miriam Bartlett who likewise was one of a family of twelve children, and they both outlived the other twenty-two brothers and sisters. Miriam Bartlett was the sister of Rachel Bartlett who had married Edmund Batchelder in 1809 and lived on the Volney Foster place.

Levi built the second house on the Noah Piper farm. It was a substantial one-story brick house which many living today remember although it burned forty years ago. The floor plan stands out very vividly in the writer's memory as it was one of the happiest haunts of her early childhood.

In the first grand list of Baltimore made out in 1828 we find Noah, John and Levi each taxed for 97 acres. Levi's  $\frac{2}{3}$  house was appraised as much as the one John and Noah occupied. The stock on the two farms were practically the same as to number and value, but Levi had \$100 in cash. In 1831 and '32 he had \$70, in 1834 and 35-\$200, in 1838-\$250, in 1839-\$350 and in 1840-\$400. In 1842 Levi Piper was the biggest taxpayer in town, owning 141 acres \$1800, personal property \$922.50. Possibly he did not care for this distinction because the next year he did not list any personal property in excess of debts owing to be taxed.

Levi Piper did not share his brother John's capacity for holding town office. He served his apprenticeship as hayward in 1816, the year he was married, but held no other office until 1822 when he was elected lister and highway surveyor. He does not appear on the records again as an office holder until 1830 when he was again lister and highway surveyor. The next two years he was town treasurer, then selectman two years, but in 1835 he was demoted to the position of fence-viewer. Three years more as selectman and three years after that as overseer were the high lights in Levi's political career. As overseer of the poor in 1843 he requested the Probate Judge for a guardian for a certain man in town who by idleness and debauchery "so spends, wastes, and lessens his estate so as to expose himself and his family to want and suffering and the town of Baltimore to charge and support of the same." Levi showed himself a true prophet. The idle fellow did become a town charge.

Levi was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1850. He and his wife were very active church members, he serving as deacon for many years in the North Springfield Baptist Church.

Levi sold his farm of 141 acres to Samuel Alford a land speculator in Perkinsville. The tract consisted of what is now the Erwin Converse farm including the Eaton lot, the Field pasture owned by Celia Cogswell and the Bibens pasture of 13 acres. He and his wife were industrious, thrifty Christian people and their removal from town was a distinct loss to the community. They moved to the Eureka district in Springfield in 1859.

Levi Piper

married

Miriam Bartlett  
of Townsend

b. Baltimore June 28, 1793

d. Springfield Jan. 3, 1877

d. Baltimore Jan. 26, 1882

age 83 yrs. 6 mo. 13 da.

Their children all born in Baltimore:

Edwin b. Dec. 11, 1817 d. Apr. 9, 1893 m. Esther A. Brierly

Adaline b. July 20, 1820 m. Thomas Preston (appears in Preston sketch)

Martha b. May 4, 1823 d. Aug. 14, 1871.

### John Willard Piper Family

John Willard m. Esther Rumrill sister of Moses  
b. in Springfield Dec. 23, 1816

Their children:

Mary E. b. in Bridgewater, Vt. Dec. 1, 1842 m. Norman F. Marble

d. Wallingford, Vt. Dec. 25, 1927

Edmund W. b. in Stoughton, Mass. May 19, 1844

m. Abbie Abbot b. in Weston, Vt. May 20, 1844

Eleanor E. d. Apr. 13, 1849 age 2 years 9 mos.

Abbie Arabella d. Apr. 3, 1850 age 9 mos.

Frederick Elisha b. in Baltimore Aug. 28, 1850 m. Elizabeth Wood  
d. in Watertown, N. Y. July 1, 1929

Myron Alphonzo b. in Baltimore Dec. 25, 1855, still living in Chester, Vt., and has furnished the writer with much data concerning this once numerous Piper family. Myron A. was married twice. His first wife was Ann R. Davis, b. in Peru, who died in 1891. His second wife was Nettie A. Aldrich who died in 1921. The children of Myron and Nettie Piper were Lester died in 1925 aged 25 years, John died at age of 27 and Lula M. Piper Hunsdon still living.

John Willard Piper owned his farm here in Baltimore from 1848 to 1861. He then moved his family to Weston where he lived until his death. The old-time residents of Weston remember him as a very religious man and active in church work. His wife, Esther, became extremely stout, weighing in the vicinity of three hundred pounds.

### Carter Piper Family

Carter Piper married Roxanna Robinson of Weathersfield, Vermont

Their children:

Henry Jairus Piper b. in Baltimore, Vt. Sept. 29, 1843

John Herbert Piper b. in Stoughton, Mass. Nov. 25, 1845

Francis Eugene b. in Illinois May 21, 1849

Theron Dubois b. in Illinois July 20, 1851

Celia Elmira b. in Illinois Oct. 28, 1853

Eva Roxanna b. in Illinois Jan. 7, 1856

Lucas Carter b. Baltimore, Vt. Mar. 30, 1858

Evidently Carter moved back to Baltimore in 1857. On Jan. 1, 1858, he is listed in the heads of families as being entitled to send Henry, Herbert, Francis, Theron, and Celia to school. It was in



1857 that Carter bought out the Gregory's and Leonard Redfield's rights and titles to land that had originally comprised the Gregory homestead. Carter was greatly aided and abetted in this transaction by money borrowed from his father.

---

*The Baltimore History must end here as this is all the material the writer prepared before her death. The History has been published as it was written but the following order or arrangement has been used. In the section on The Story of Baltimore People, the Chaplins who settled on the Henry Hammond place appear first, with their neighbors the Davises and a few families over the Old Road. Then follows the story of the old families who lived along the main road up toward Hawks Mountain, next those of the West District, the families under the mountain and finally the Pipers, who settled in the eastern part of the new town. This is a geographical arrangement rather than a chronological one and encircles the town.*











